

VA's Big Squeeze ■ Terrorism's Global Reach ■ 'We Were Soldiers'

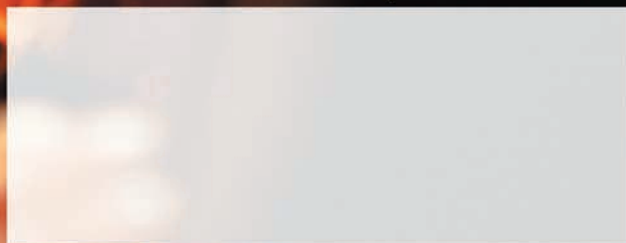
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For God and Country

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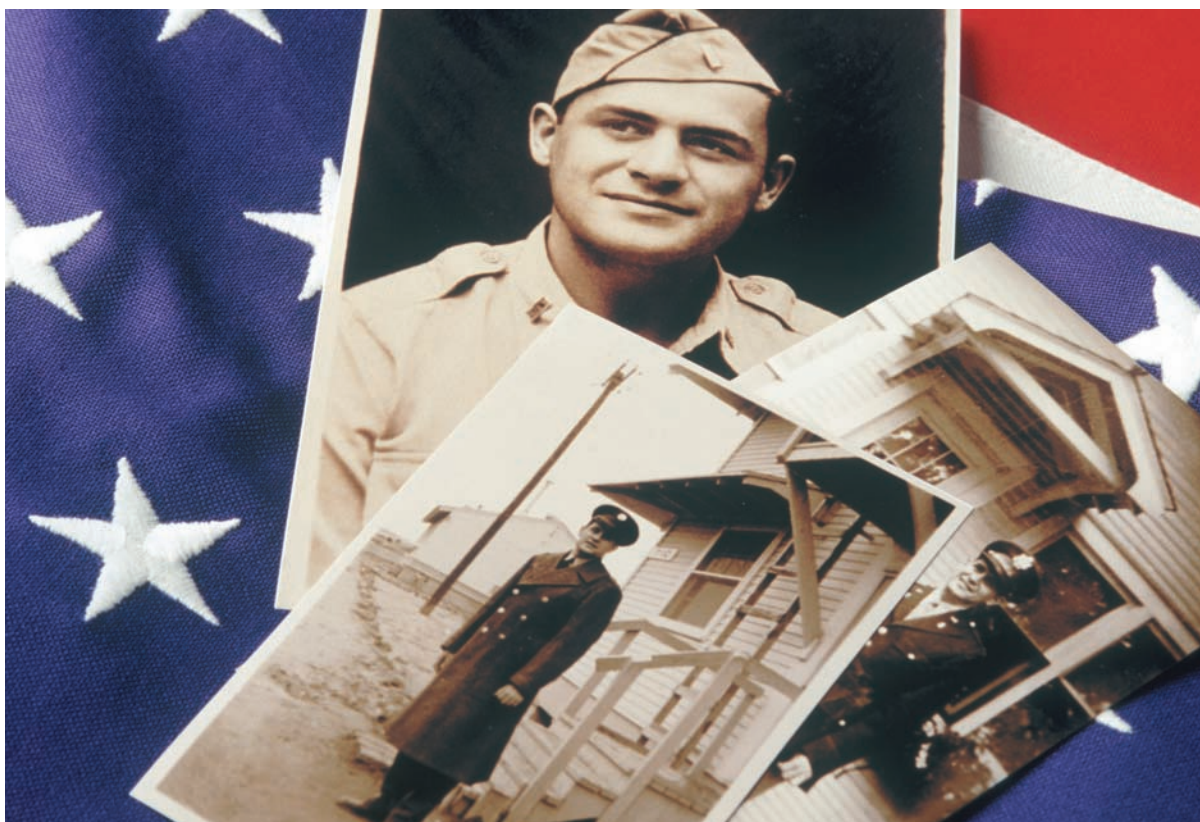
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## Not so simple

Steve Forbes' proposal ("Flat Tax: Freedom or Fraud?" April) seems like a simple way of getting away from the complex federal tax code, until you superimpose on it some facts. How do we get from our current system to a flat tax? Most people older than 45 have investment and retirement plans based on current tax laws; those plans would be devastated unless we adopt a phase-in period, which no one has yet delineated.



Proponents of the flat tax also ignore the fact that the federal income tax is partially used to finance the government. Congress increasingly uses it to provide incentives to sign on to various government programs and as a means to redistribute wealth from those who have earned it to those who haven't.

Even if the flat tax by some miracle were enacted into law, before the first session of a new Congress began lobbyists and advocates would be pushing for exemptions or tax breaks for this group or that. We'd be well on our way to another complex tax code.

— C.E. Hart, Loudonville, N.Y.

## Flat tax exposed

Thanks for shedding some much-needed light on the subject of the flat tax. Robert S. McIntyre confirmed my suspicions, and he proved the wisdom of the old saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." The proponents of the flat tax are always vague and short on facts. I applaud you for an unbiased publishing of both sides.

— Herbert Lenz, Wichita, Kan.

## Demand flat tax

Three cheers for Steve Forbes in his battle for the flat tax. The current tax codes are nothing short of criminal conspiracy by Congress and multinational corporations with their corrupt mouthpieces.

Every Legionnaire should write to their representative and demand the flat tax be implemented. Congratulations to *The American Legion Magazine* for bringing this injustice to light.

— Thomas Reid, Milton, N.H.

## Fuzzy math

For my money, Robert S. McIntyre shouldn't be the head of anything. Can't he even take 17 percent of \$14,000 and come up with \$2,380 instead of his \$3,500 or more? No wonder my mother told me not to believe everything I read. McIntyre's just another lobbyist selling his stuff.

— Bill Shaw, Ocean City, N.J.

## Call it a mismatch

You have someone with a logical position on a subject such as the flat tax, then match him up against a right-wing crazy like Steve Forbes, who's so far out in his ideas that nobody with any sense would even listen to him. How do you find these people?

— James E. Anderson, Mellette, S.D.

## You're smokin'

Flat tax, national sales tax, XYZ tax — it's all much ado about nothing. Anyone believing 51 percent of 535 egomaniacs are going to relinquish the power conferred by the current tax monstrosity has been ingesting an illegal substance.

— Doug Spittler, Kalama, Wash.

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

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## Find the funds

It's disgusting that the Bush administration has yet to fund concurrent receipt ("End 'Concurrent Deceit,'" April). The military is the only occupation in the United States whose retirement pay must be offset dollar for dollar in order for the career military member to receive disability compensation from VA for a service-connected disability.

Every year we give billions to other nations, many of which are hellbent on destroying us. It's time the federal government stops this blatant discrimination against those who defended our country with years of honorable service.

— Lewis E. Pugh, Mesa, Ariz.

## Better every month

Applause, I believe, is the best word for my feelings concerning the Legion's editorial policy for its magazine, which has evolved into not only an interesting publication but one that offers 75 percent or more of its pages as a genuine service to members.

Your articles are current, well-written and definitely helpful to this reader, a World War II and Korean War veteran. I particularly like the use of sidebars with punch on items of importance, as well as brief mentions of potential benefits that have been given more space in previous issues. That is, you don't assume when something was conveyed earlier that all of us caught the drift. I look forward to each issue.

— Carroll T. Lancaster Jr., Zephyr, Texas

## In the center

Even though *The American Legion Magazine* seems to tilt to the right, it gives the other side a voice. There's no need for readers to be upset just because you're fair enough to present both sides. Keep up the good work — in the center.

— Frank Barrett, Beaver Falls, N.Y.

## Rebuild towers

It's a fine thing to see construction workers are laboring to rebuild the Pentagon and erase evidence of the Sept. 11 assault so rapidly. I think the Twin Towers should be rebuilt too, as tall as



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they were before; anything less will be a shameful retreat.

It may be asking too much to expect private enterprise to take this risk, so I'd suggest selling shares of ownership in the new towers for a modest price to the public, like Texas once was sold by the square inch so tourists could refer to their "ranch." I think most Americans want the skyline to make a proud statement: you might knock us down, but you can't keep us down.

— William R. Wood, Ada, Mich.



## Losing ground

After reading Paul Crespo's article "Castro's Connections" (April), I'm filled with fear and anger. It seems our enemies, of which God knows we have plenty, are outwitting us at every turn. It also seems we haven't learned lessons from the past, including Pearl Harbor and the appeasement of Hitler. What will it take for the United States to wake up?

— Joseph Diovisalvi, Staten Island, N.Y.

## Mend fences

Paul Crespo is just trying to stir up the pot against Castro. It's time to make amends. The next thing you know, Castro and Saddam Hussein will be accused of killing Christ. It really turns me off to see these kinds of stories in our great magazine.

— Ed Morris, Hampton Bays, N.Y.

## Weapon of peace

Ernest W. Lefever's article "Stop Demonizing the Bomb" (March) should be required reading for all high-school and college students and any revisionist who would give the farm away. It did my old heart a world of good to read his forthright reminder of why we've had nearly 50 years of peace in our world — and why we must maintain our vigilance.

— Paul Rekstad, Brooksville, Fla.

## Time will tell

History shows that weapons inevitably are used, usually more than once. We've only lived with the atomic bomb for 57 years. I'd say the jury is still out as to whether it promotes peace, especially in the context of religious fanatics who may not care if they die using it.

— Gerald A. Ney, Philadelphia

## Train military first

As chaplain for the honor guard in the Denver area, I take exception to the fact that the military will train authorized providers ("Legion Assists as 'Authorized Provider' for Military Burials," Legion News, March). I assist in about 150 military services a year and have seen servicemembers try to fold the American flag. Half can't fold the flag correctly, and when it is presented to the next of kin, the red shows and is not tucked properly. This is a disgrace to the deceased veteran who fought to protect the flag.

I've on many occasions demanded the flag be refolded or refolded it myself. Even funeral directors comment on the disgraceful way the military performs a service. It will be a cold day in you-know-where before the military trains me or any member of my honor guard on military funeral honors.

— Marvin Matthews, Federal Heights, Colo.

## It's our money

Thanks for printing Alan Keyes' article "The Injustice of Income Tax" (March). The present system of mandatory extortion resembles the tributes exacted by autocratic rulers in other nations. Income tax is simply legalized robbery that is and should be declared unconstitutional. A less bloated, more efficient federal government could comfortably function if funded by tariffs, duties and excise or sales taxes.

A national sales tax would certainly be a fair and equitable alternative, since each family would be taxed solely on purchases of its own choosing. Let's complete the American Revolution by throwing off the chains of a government

agency that dictates how much of our money we may retain and use.

— Joseph T. Dillon, Dorchester, Mass.

## Lose the politics

I've been led to believe that politics have no place in The American Legion, and Alan Keyes' article definitely crosses that line. I'm retired, and my wife and I basically live on Social Security. Who would be hurt by a national sales tax? Low-income families and people like us on a small fixed income, while rich families and large corporations would benefit immensely. Thank God a radical like Keyes never was elected.

— Donald Dahlen, Rio, Wis.

## Just say 'no'

Alan W. Dowd's article "No Place to Go" (March) is a grim reminder that the Endangered Species Act may turn out to be a national suicide pact. It's about time to introduce NIMBYs, environmentalist wackos and bunny-huggers to a word in the English language they must dread like anthrax: "no."

— Don Seaman, Newport, Pa.

## Wise up, guys

If today's Americans want to worry more about woodpeckers than they worry about Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, don't stand in their way. They'll wise up in short order.

— Edward C. Jones Jr., Highland Park, N.J.

## Numbers off

Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., says something must be done for the nation's 3 million homeless people ("U.S. Neglecting Domestic Needs?" Big Issues, March). Where did she get this number?

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, if you went out today and counted the homeless, you'd find between 500,000 and 600,000. The National Coalition for the Homeless counts 700,000. The Urban Institute calculates about 800,000.

Is this another spin from members of Congress who would like to see less money spent on defense and more on welfare?

— Richie Nelson, Ormond Beach, Fla.



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# Freedom of press has limits



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*"The military cannot, and should not, be hampered in the execution of its war mission by a press corps seeking real-time, play-by-play pictures."*



A recent article by *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd takes the Pentagon to the woodshed. She criticizes the military and its seemingly cozy relationship with Hollywood. At the same time, Dowd, along with a number of television network executives and talking heads, derides the military for giving the stiff-arm to legitimate journalists trying to cover the battlefield war on terrorism.

Dowd, Dan Rather and some network news executives are up in arms over a number of completed movies and planned television projects blessed by the Department of Defense. Dowd cites collaboration between the Pentagon, "Black Hawk Down" producer Jerry Bruckheimer and Bertram van Munster of "Cops" to make a television docu-drama about the war on terrorism. She also is upset that the military apparently is cooperating with a VH1 show titled "Military Diaries Project," in which a number of soldiers will become instant television celebrities by turning digital cameras on themselves.

"I'm outraged about the Hollywoodization of the military," Rather told Dowd. "Somebody's got to question whether it's a good idea to limit independent reporting on the battlefield and access of journalists to U.S. military personnel and then conspire with Hollywood."

The Pentagon "would rather make troops available as props in gung-ho videos than to explain how their commanders let Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida leaders escape or targeted the wrong villages," Dowd said.

Well, Dowd, Rather and others of their ilk are misguided about military and entertainment collaboration. And they are wrong regarding unfettered access of the press to the front line.

**Divergent Philosophies.** The military and the entertainment industry have long joined hands – not for sinister reasons, but to call together loyal Americans to support their government's wartime efforts. Frank Capra's film collaboration during World War II is a prime example. Through World War II, press censorship was voluntary. It was overseen by the Press Division of the Office of Censorship, staffed mostly by furloughed newspapermen. Back then, when it came to national security, journalists were "Americans first and journalists second." That's the way it should be today.

The military is commissioned to protect America's citizens against threats both domestic and foreign. It is a machine trained in the practice of war. The press, on the other hand, regards itself as guardian of the people's right to know. Both are cradled passionately in freedom's arms.

The press jealously guards its prerogative to seek the truth regardless where it might lead. The military closes ranks to protect its citizen soldiers in time of armed hostilities. The divergent philosophies create a conflict pitting a free press and its overriding mission to inform the American public against the national-security interests of a military going about its constitutional duty.

Few reasonable Americans would handcuff the press in its quest to shine light on evil hiding in shadows. But reasonable Americans also believe a free press does not have the right to endanger military men and women in peril protecting America's way of life.

Barring uncovered criminal or unconstitutional vagaries, the press should let the military do what it does best without distraction. The press has no constitutional free pass to accompany America's fighting men and women to the front lines. The military cannot, and should not, be hampered in the execution of its war mission by a press corps seeking real-time, play-by-play pictures.

The press can play a legitimate role in reporting on military matters and operations. However, today's media appear to be more interested in finding fault and being first to break the story. The military appears to mistrust the media, perhaps as a result of perceived mistreatment by the press during the Vietnam War. The media are for the most part limited today to press pools of a few selected representatives. Instead of witnessing front-line battles, reporters and correspondents must rely on military briefings and press releases to get most of their information. It was not always so.

Prior to the 1950s, the media enjoyed nearly unfettered access to the military and front lines of the battlefield. The press, in turn, agreed to embargo time-sensitive stories and exercised prudence based on the military's judgment of the sensitivity of certain information. In a 1997 dissertation, David R. Davies chronicled a prime exam-



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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** GLUCOVANCE is not for everyone. In rare cases, GLUCOVANCE may cause lactic acidosis (buildup of lactic acid in the blood), which is serious and can be fatal in half the cases. This occurs mainly in people whose kidneys are not functioning properly. Tell your doctor about your alcohol use because it can affect your risk. You should not take GLUCOVANCE if you: have kidney problems, are 80 or older (unless your kidneys have been tested), are taking medication for heart failure, are seriously dehydrated, have a severe infection, or if you have or have had liver disease.

The most common side effect is diarrhea. Symptoms of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) such as lightheadedness, dizziness, shakiness or hunger may also occur.

Please see additional important patient information on next page.

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# PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT GLUCOVANCE®

(Glyburide and Metformin HCl Tablets)

**WARNING: A small number of people who have taken metformin hydrochloride have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis. Properly functioning kidneys are needed to help prevent lactic acidosis. Most people with kidney problems should not take GLUCOVANCE. (See Question Nos. 9-13.)**

## Q1. Why do I need to take GLUCOVANCE?

Your doctor has prescribed GLUCOVANCE to treat your type 2 diabetes. This is also known as non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

## Q2. What is type 2 diabetes?

People with diabetes are not able to make enough insulin and/or respond normally to the insulin their body does make. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems including kidney damage, amputations, and blindness. Diabetes is also closely linked to heart disease. The main goal of treating diabetes is to lower your blood sugar to a normal level.

## Q3. Why is it important to control type 2 diabetes?

The main goal of treating diabetes is to lower your blood sugar to a normal level. Studies have shown that good control of blood sugar may prevent or delay complications such as heart disease, kidney disease, or blindness.

## Q4. How is type 2 diabetes usually controlled?

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, by a number of oral medications, and by insulin injections. Before taking GLUCOVANCE you should first try to control your diabetes by exercise and weight loss. Even if you are taking GLUCOVANCE, you should still exercise and follow the diet recommended for your diabetes.

## Q5. Does GLUCOVANCE work differently from other glucose-control medications?

Yes it does. GLUCOVANCE combines two glucose lowering drugs, glyburide and metformin. These two drugs work together to improve the different metabolic defects found in type 2 diabetes. Glyburide lowers blood sugar primarily by causing more of the body's own insulin to be released, and metformin lowers blood sugar, in part, by helping your body use your own insulin more effectively. Together, they are efficient in helping you achieve better glucose control.

## Q6. What happens if my blood sugar is still too high?

When blood sugar cannot be lowered enough by GLUCOVANCE your doctor may prescribe injectable insulin or take other measures to control your diabetes.

## Q7. Can GLUCOVANCE cause side effects?

GLUCOVANCE, like all blood sugar-lowering medications, can cause side effects in some patients. Most of these side effects are minor. However, there are also serious, but rare, side effects related to GLUCOVANCE (see **Q9 - Q13**).

## Q8. What are the most common side effects of GLUCOVANCE?

The most common side effects of GLUCOVANCE are normally minor ones such as diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach. If these side effects occur, they usually occur during the first few weeks of therapy. Taking your GLUCOVANCE with meals can help reduce these side effects.

Less frequently, symptoms of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), such as lightheadedness, dizziness, shakiness, or hunger may occur. The risk of hypoglycemic symptoms increases when meals are skipped, too much alcohol is consumed, or heavy exercise occurs without enough food. Following the advice of your doctor can help you to avoid these symptoms.

## Q9. Are there any serious side effects that GLUCOVANCE can cause?

GLUCOVANCE rarely causes serious side effects. The most serious side effect that GLUCOVANCE can cause is called lactic acidosis.

## Q10. What is lactic acidosis and can it happen to me?

Lactic acidosis is caused by a buildup of lactic acid in the blood. Lactic acidosis associated with metformin is rare and has occurred mostly in people whose kidneys were not working normally. Lactic acidosis has been reported in about one in 33,000 patients taking metformin over the course of a year. Although rare, if lactic acidosis does occur, it can be fatal in up to half the cases.

It's also important for your liver to be working normally when you take GLUCOVANCE. Your liver helps remove lactic acid from your bloodstream.

Your doctor will monitor your diabetes and may perform blood tests on you from time to time to make sure your kidneys and your liver are functioning normally.

## Q11. Are there other risk factors for lactic acidosis?

Your risk of developing lactic acidosis from taking GLUCOVANCE is very low as long as your kidneys and liver are healthy. However, some factors can increase your risk because they can affect kidney and liver function. You should discuss your risk with your physician.

You should not take GLUCOVANCE if:

- You have chronic kidney or liver problems
- You have congestive heart failure which is treated with medications, e.g., digoxin (Lanoxin®) or furosemide (Lasix®)
- You drink alcohol excessively (all the time or short-term "binge" drinking)
- You are seriously dehydrated (have lost a large amount of body fluids)
- You are going to have certain x-ray procedures with injectable contrast agents
- You are going to have surgery
- You develop a serious condition such as a heart attack, severe infection, or a stroke
- You are ≥80 years of age and have NOT had your kidney function tested

## Q12. What are the symptoms of lactic acidosis?

Some of the symptoms include: feeling very weak, tired or uncomfortable; unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, feeling cold, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, or suddenly developing a slow or irregular heartbeat.

If you notice these symptoms, or if your medical condition has suddenly changed, stop taking GLUCOVANCE tablets and call your doctor right away. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency that must be treated in a hospital.

## Q13. What does my doctor need to know to decrease my risk of lactic acidosis?

Tell your doctor if you have an illness that results in severe vomiting, diarrhea, and/or fever, or if your intake of fluids is significantly reduced. These situations can lead to severe dehydration, and it may be necessary to stop taking GLUCOVANCE temporarily.

You should let your doctor know if you are going to have any surgery or specialized x-ray procedures that require injection of contrast agents. GLUCOVANCE therapy will need to be stopped temporarily in such instances.

## Q14. Can I take GLUCOVANCE with other medications?

Remind your doctor that you are taking GLUCOVANCE when any new drug is prescribed or a change is made in how you take a drug already prescribed. GLUCOVANCE may interfere with the way some drugs work and some drugs may interfere with the action of GLUCOVANCE.

## Q15. What if I become pregnant while taking GLUCOVANCE?

Tell your doctor if you plan to become pregnant or have become pregnant. As with other oral glucose-control medications, you should not take GLUCOVANCE during pregnancy.

Usually your doctor will prescribe insulin while you are pregnant. As with all medications, you and your doctor should discuss the use of GLUCOVANCE if you are nursing a child.

## Q16. How do I take GLUCOVANCE?

Your doctor will tell you how many GLUCOVANCE tablets to take and how often. This should also be printed on the label of your prescription. You will probably be started on a low dose of GLUCOVANCE and your dosage will be increased gradually until your blood sugar is controlled.

## Q17. Where can I get more information about GLUCOVANCE?

This leaflet is a summary of the most important information about GLUCOVANCE. If you have any questions or problems, you should talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider about type 2 diabetes as well as GLUCOVANCE and its side effects. There is also a leaflet (package insert) written for health professionals that your pharmacist can let you read.

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ple of press-military cooperation during the World War II era. For four months, William L. Lawrence of *The New York Times* wrote articles for the government about the invention and deployment of the atom bomb. It was not until the bombs had been dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima that Lawrence's articles were released and published in the *Times* and other publications.

The *Times* reporter considered the opportunity to work in secret with the government to be a high honor for both him and his newspaper, Davies wrote.

#### Americans First.

The difference between the past and present is the way the media define themselves. Many journalists now consider their citizenship secondary to their craft. One major network anchor is on record as saying he would not attempt to warn American soldiers of an imminent enemy attack if he were on the battlefield with an enemy force. It is this "story-first" mentality that the military mistrusts, and for good cause.

Competitive pressure among the media today could force network news and cable executives to splash clandestine digital images of U.S. troop movements or the existence of some new bomb via satellite to viewers around the world, tipping off wartime enemies.

The Bush-Gore presidential race in Florida is a prime example. Television cable and network news executives were so eager to be first to declare a winner that some broad-

cast wrong information. Not only did they get it wrong, but their attempts to correct earlier erroneous reports only resulted in more misinformation. Journalists in their zeal for ratings points created a false sense of crisis.



U.S. Marines search press-pool journalists at Kandahar International Airport in Afghanistan. Such pools serve the legitimate needs of the media and provide security both for journalists and their military escorts. AP

The haste to report election-night projections of winners and losers before polls close is accepted practice today. But premature reports are sometimes wrong and surely affect the outcome of some local races. Promising political careers may well have been cut short as a result of journalistic bragging rights and the quest for television ratings.

Playing fast and loose with the political careers of would-be public servants is one thing. Risking the safety or life of soldiers for the

sake of television ratings is another. In this age of satellite television, a number of those additional viewers are sure to be on the enemy's side.

**Story vs. Soldier.** In its Principles of Information, DoD pledges to make available timely and accurate information so that the public, Congress and the news media may assess and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy. The policy requires the military to:

- Make information fully and readily available, consistent with statutory requirements, unless its release is precluded by national-security constraints or valid statutory mandates or exceptions. The Freedom of Information Act will be supported in both letter and spirit.

- Provide free flow of general and military information without censorship or propaganda to the men and women of the armed forces and their dependents.

- Assure that information is not classified or otherwise withheld to protect the government from criticism or embarrassment.

- Withhold information only when disclosure would adversely affect national security, threaten the safety or privacy of U.S. government personnel or their families, violate the privacy of the citizens of the United States or be contrary to law.

The Pentagon has a responsibility to protect all Americans, including journalists. Worrying about journalists who may be tagging along during combat operations is a distraction that endangers the lives of American soldiers. It is not worth it. The DoD Principles of Information are sufficient to satisfy the needs of a hungry media.

Perhaps Dowd and those supporting her thesis should note the words of F. Raymond Daniell, a writer for *The New York Times* who covered the Lindbergh kidnapping and Scottsboro Boys stories in the 1930s. "There is not any story in the world that is good enough to justify risking the life of a single American soldier," he said.

I agree.

# Increased farm funding

## SUPPORT

**Sen. Tim Johnson**  
D-S.D.



Americans are the envy of the world because we enjoy the most affordable and safest food while spending only 11 percent of our household income on groceries.

Still, in tight fiscal conditions, some ask whether agriculture receives more federal help than necessary. Today, America's farmers receive for

their crops about half the price they pocketed six years ago. In some cases, production costs exceed farm income. Yet food must be produced to keep our nation fed.

*"The agricultural economy is more than a federal budget number."*

Without a new farm bill, net farm income could drop 20 percent this year. The absence of appropriate funding and a new farm bill would leave our nation unable to provide economic se-

curity to farmers, enjoy environmental benefits, and maintain food security and affordability.

Farmers and ranchers want to derive income from the marketplace, not the government. For that to happen, Congress must restore fair competition to agricultural markets.

I introduced a common-sense amendment limiting the amount of taxpayer-funded subsidies available to farms. Today, large farms amass huge payments from the government, since there are virtually no limits. Indeed, some individuals have collected millions of dollars from taxpayers since the 1996 farm bill was enacted.

American farmers and taxpayers deserve better. That's why the Senate farm bill contains a provision to limit the amount of these payments to \$275,000 annually.

This is a significant change in policy that prevents \$1.3 billion from going to large corporate farming operations. If made law, this will shift an enormous burden away from taxpayers and allow farmers of all sizes to compete in the market.

This is but one example of the positive reforms contained in the Senate farm bill. The agricultural economy is more than a federal budget number; it is rural America's future. Is agriculture getting more federal help than it should? No, especially if the appropriate reforms are included in the final farm bill.

**Sen. Larry Craig**  
R-Idaho

## OPPOSE



Farmers discovered long ago that no matter how well-intended, government "assistance" to agriculture generally means thinly disguised welfare with a lot of red tape. The web of regulations that accompanies even the smallest amount of this assistance can easily snare those farmers it intends to help and produce negative effects on the market that choke future opportunities.

If we continue to increase agriculture subsidies beyond the current level of \$20 billion instead of addressing real issues like unfair trade, we only assure that web will become more extensive and harmful to a cornerstone of our country's economy.

*"Farmers should control their own destinies."*

In the decades preceding the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which was passed by a Republican-led Congress, the government dictated to farmers what they would plant, when they would plant and where. The popular notion among bureaucrats was that government knew more about farming than the actual individuals plowing and tending the fields.

In 1996 we attempted to reverse that mentality, and six years later, progress is being made for farmers to stand firmly on their own. This progress is only going to improve over the long term, and the government can assure this by turning its attention to opening up overseas markets.

Every day new technological advances and innovations expand the boundaries of what our agriculture system is able to accomplish. We enjoy an abundance of crops and products in this country at levels the world has never before seen.

American farmers continue to prove they are the best producers of the highest-quality products and that they are capable of feeding the world. The federal government should be working with them as a team to provide avenues for food to reach dinner tables around the globe rather than "assisting" them by running their day-to-day operations.

Farmers should control their own destinies. It is insulting to be talking about handouts that barely allow them to exist when they have the potential to achieve so much more.

I am confident agriculture will flourish in a balanced market.

### YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views in writing at the following addresses:

**The Honorable (name)**  
**U.S. Senate**  
**Washington, DC 20510**  
**Phone: (202) 224-3121**

**The Honorable (name)**  
**House of Representatives**  
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# Flag-protection amendment rides high in latest poll

*Senate leadership ignores results.*

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

The people have spoken, and the mandate is clear: Congress needs to pass the flag-protection amendment now.

A survey conducted by Market Strategies Inc., a Michigan-based public-opinion research organization, found that the amendment has the support of 75 percent of the American people, with 76 percent indicating the Senate should take up the issue during its current session.

Although the amendment is supported by the White House, has received the two-thirds majority needed in the House of Representatives four times and has the solid support of more than 60 U.S. senators, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., is living up to his reputation as the nation's "obstructionist-in-chief" by refusing to bring the issue to a vote. Furthermore, Judiciary Committee Chairman Pat Leahy, D-Vt., has blocked committee hearings on it even though his home state recently became the 50th state to call for constitutional protection of Old Glory.

"Recently Sen. Daschle has made fun of himself for being an obstructionist," said Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., at a press conference announcing the poll results. "We don't think it's funny. A su-

permajority has supported a constitutional amendment or at least the process of a constitutional amendment to protect the flag.

"It's time for Mr. Daschle to bring forward the bill. If he disagrees with it, at least bring it forward to the Senate floor. I'm sure that Sen. Daschle doesn't want to expose this during an election year. But let the will of the people be heard."

American Legion National Commander Richard J. Santos called on Congress to follow the American's Creed, a resolution passed by that body nearly a century ago.

"The second passage of the creed states, 'I therefore believe it is my duty to our country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and defend it against all enemies.' I ask those in Congress who are opposed to the amendment to ap-

ply the creed, respect the flag and listen to the will of the governed."

"For 13 years this has held our attention," said Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman Patrick H. Brady, a Medal-of-Honor recipient. "The people will not give up on this. They still insist that the courts made a mistake when they took away our right to protect the American flag and they insist that that right be returned. This poll should be a strong answer to those in the Senate who would deny the people this right."

CFA officials emphasized that the goal of the survey was to provide an accurate representation of where the people stood. To do this, the survey – conducted in February – included arguments made by the opposition. Sixty-six percent of those surveyed said they do not believe the amendment would limit free speech; 53 percent do not


think it is an inconsequential reason to change the Constitution; 55 percent do not think the infrequency of actual flag burnings is a reason to reject a flag amendment; and 90 percent think the American flag is a unique symbol deserving special status.

Brady, a retired major general, said the amendment can be an important issue in the next elections. He pointed out that Sen. George Allen, R-Va., made the amendment an issue in the 2000 election and defeated an entrenched incumbent. "The Senate majority leader says that he needs 60 votes to take action. Well, we have way more than 60." □



Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, left, board chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance, greets Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., during a press conference announcing the results of a new poll on the flag-protection amendment. June 14 will mark the 13th consecutive Flag Day since the Supreme Court took away the people's right to protect the American flag from desecration. *Sandy Schaeffer*





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*Outdoor movies are back, with a few improvements.*

BY GARY TURBAK

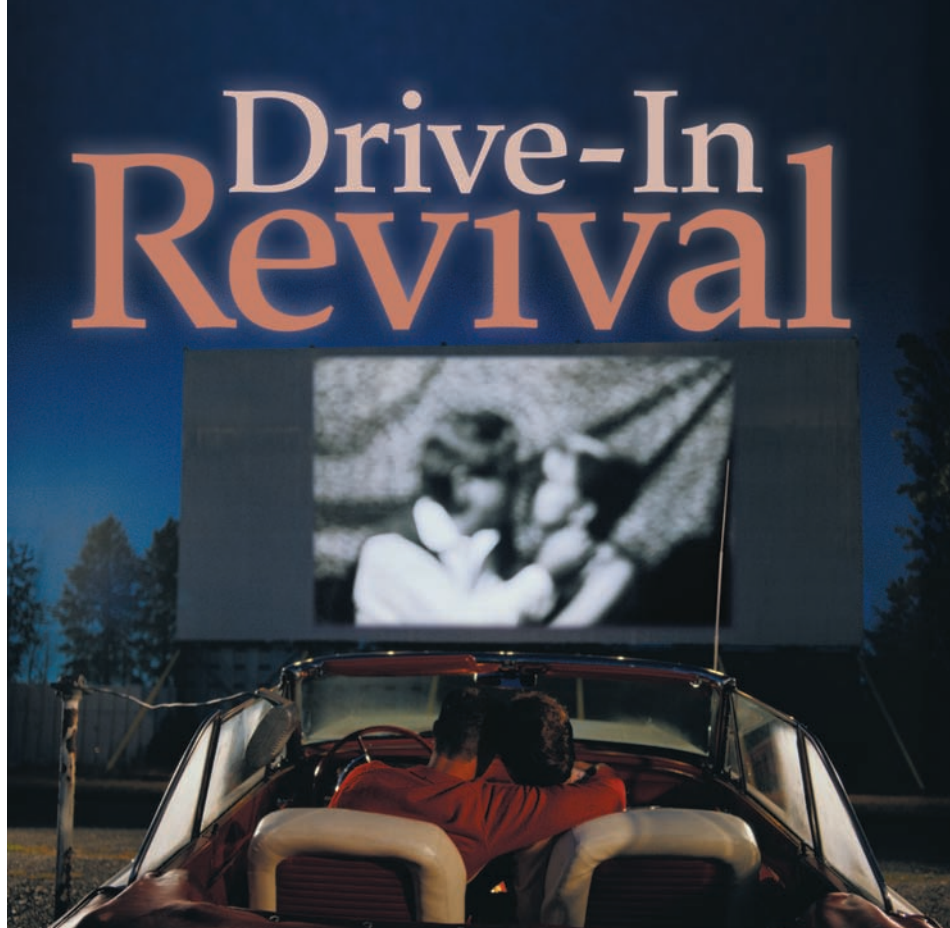
For many Americans, memories of adolescence and early adulthood are filled with starry nights, a sweetheart and a movie playing just beyond the windshield. For decades, the drive-in theater was the place to be on a Saturday night, even – perhaps especially – if the film was a dog. Whatever became of this icon of Americana? Good news: the drive-in theater is alive and well, and it's entering a renaissance.

Drive-in movies made their debut in 1933. "Wife Beware" was the first film shown at a drive-in. But the novelty of car-seat cinema did not become a national rage until after World War II when GIs came home, married, had children and – most importantly – bought cars. For the cost of a baby-sitter, a young couple could go to the movies and take the kids along – usually for free. This made drive-ins an affordable family affair.

To attract patrons, drive-ins built playgrounds, swimming pools, horseshoe pits and stages. Drive-in owners brought in bands, conducted talent contests and served suppers. One Florida theater even had a fishing pond on the premises.

At dark, of course, the movie started. For many people, the film's quality was irrelevant. Often, drive-in movies were B-grade, and the sound quality "was barely adequate for dialogue. It was useless for music," writes Kerry Segrave in the book "Drive-In Theaters – A History From Their Inception in 1933."

No one minded. People went to drive-ins to socialize, let the kids romp, have a picnic, sample the snack-bar food, cuddle with their sweeties, get out of the house, or maybe just to have an excuse to take the Studebaker, Packard or Pontiac for a run. Soon, the drive-in theater became



Tony Stone

one of America's favorite gathering places, as integral to summer as fireworks and watermelon. By 1958, nearly 5,000 drive-ins dotted the land, the largest of them capable of holding 3,000 cars.

The drive-in heyday ended in the 1960s for several reasons. The land – eight acres for an average theater – sold for more lucrative malls and tract housing. Daylight Savings Time, made permanent in 1967, delayed darkness an hour, causing many movies to end long after midnight. Bucket seats and confining back seats kept some couples away. Most detrimental, perhaps, was the development of television, cable TV and the VCR, which kept people home.

Outdoor theaters did not die out completely, though. Today about 500 of them are doing business. And, interestingly, more are being built or reopened every year. "A new generation is discovering drive-ins," says Randy Loy, executive director of the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association. "The folks who attended as kids now take their kids."

For the most part, little has changed. Teen-agers still watch

from the backs of pickup trucks. Young children generally go for free, adult tickets usually cost between \$6 and \$7. People still honk their horns to encourage the movie's start.

The come-ons haven't changed much, although now and then drive-ins adopt special new gimmicks. One in Vermont and another in Colorado are motels as well as theaters. A few even sell beer. One Florida drive-in features a dozen screens.

Perhaps the biggest change is that sound is now delivered to cars via FM radio, not from a squawk-box speaker on a post. The films are also better because modern drive-ins now get more first-run movies.

And why not? A generation or two may have come and gone since drive-ins were cool places to go on hot summer nights, but this is the generation that brought back bell-bottom hip huggers and rose-colored glasses. It's only natural that drive-in movies should be next. □

*Gary Turbak is a freelance writer living in Missoula, Mont.*



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# Gambling's Dark Side

BY DAN ALLSUP

*The stakes are high as more Americans see legalized gambling as the ticket to financial freedom.*

In their 16 years of marriage, Steve and Kate never had a lot of extra money. It was a struggle at times, but the couple and their two children lived in a modest home in Collinsville, Ill., and were getting by. Like clockwork, Steve gave Kate \$338 to make the monthly house payment.

Then on Feb. 1, 1995, Kate dropped the kids off at school, drove to a mall parking lot, climbed into the back seat of her Oldsmobile and killed herself with a .357-magnum revolver. Later that day, sheriff's deputies arrived at the house to deliver an eviction notice because Kate hadn't made a house payment in 17 months.

Steve, then 45, was a refinery worker. Kate, 40, was a volunteer teacher and a gambling addict. Steve knew his wife liked a little gambling action. He knew she would drop a few dollars on lottery tickets, and then there were the twice-weekly bingo outings and occasional trips to the racetrack. But Steve believed it was the gaming tables and jangling slot machines aboard a riverboat casino nearby that were Kate's fatal attraction.





It wasn't until after Kate's suicide that Steve learned the depths of his wife's addiction. Barely \$800 remained of their \$8,000 savings. A \$5,000 tax refund had disappeared and most of the family's bills had gone unpaid. Kate had even pawned her wedding rings. "She was a master of disguise," Steve told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "I was never aware of this until the day she committed suicide. My life went from a bed of roses to a black nightmare in 30 minutes."

Millions of Americans view lotteries and casinos as a ticket to financial freedom. Legalized gambling is one of today's most contentious political and moral issues. Opponents say it takes from the poor and gives to the rich. Advocates insist it's merely a voluntary tax, maybe even a civic responsibility. After all, they say, nobody forces a man to spend his lunch money on lottery tickets – or lose his paycheck aboard a landlocked riverboat casino.

**Guilty Pleasure.** Gambling is thousands of years old. Some forms of lotteries date to the time of Caesar. One hundred years before Christ, the Hun dynasty in China created keno, a game of chance, and lottery funds were used for defense and to finance the construction of the Great Wall of China.

Although its popularity and legality have cycled over the years, gambling has always been one of America's most consistent guilty pleasures. In a study he prepared for the California Research Bureau, Roger Dunstan says all 13 original colonies promoted lotteries to help finance the American Revolution. Ben Franklin, John Hancock and George Washington sponsored lotteries to finance their pet public-works projects. Lottery profits also helped establish some of the nation's most prestigious universities, including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth and Princeton.

In 1769, the Crown discouraged lotteries in the colonies, but at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress approved the original "Big Game," a \$10 million bonanza to help finance the war. That project failed, however, because it was too large and tickets couldn't be sold.

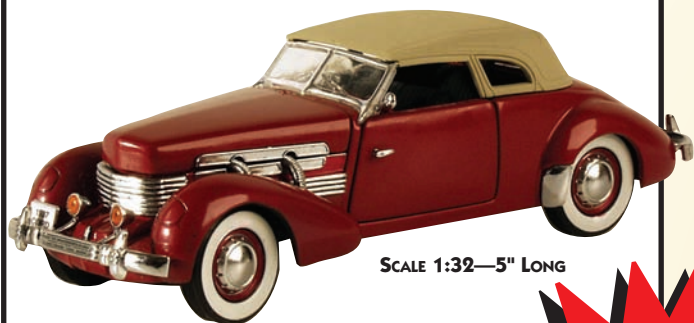
In the 1800s, anti-gambling moralists nearly killed state-sponsored lotteries. By 1860, only Delaware, Missouri and Kentucky had authorized lotteries. The games rebounded after the

*If the state authorizes it, regulates it, sells it, taxes it and profits from it, it's legal. If the state doesn't get a cut, it's against the law.*



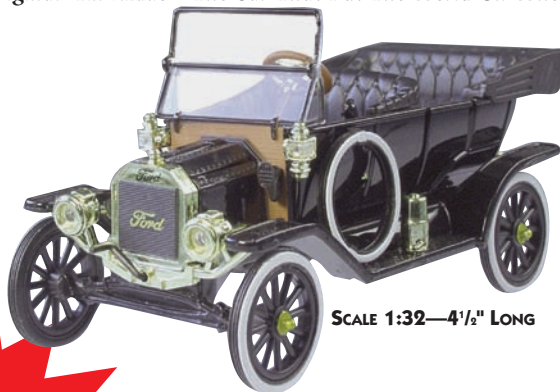
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Civil War when southern states needed money to rebuild. Even during the lottery lull, however, gambling of the unauthorized type – horseracing, card games and other games of chance – continued to flourish. The adventure-some folks who trekked west during the California Gold Rush in the 1850s brought their marked cards to the mining camps, and San Francisco soon became the unofficial gambling capital of the United States.

The Great Depression led to another boost in legalized gambling as the government tried to stimulate the economy. Massachusetts legalized bingo in 1931, and horseracing and pari-mutuel wagering surged. That same year, Nevada became the first state to allow casino gambling. It wasn't until 1978 that New Jersey followed suit.

Between 1894 and 1964, the government did not sponsor lotteries, but Americans still found ways to play the numbers. One of the most popular was the Irish Sweepstakes, which began in 1930 to raise money for hospitals in Ireland. As recently as 1964, New Hampshire was the only state with a lottery. But along with the stock market, legalized gambling surged in the 1990s.

In 1998, Americans spent more gambling than they did on recorded music, theme parks, video games, spectator sports and movie tickets combined. Today, 38 states have lotteries, 40 states allow betting on horses and 28 permit casinos. Tennessee will attempt to join the crowd at the gaming tables when the issue comes to a vote next November. Only Utah, Tennessee and Hawaii do not allow gambling of any type.

**The Real Winner.** What is legal gambling? If the state authorizes it, regulates it, sells it, taxes it and profits from it, it's legal. If the state doesn't get a cut, it's against the law. If the multi-state Powerball lottery were a private enterprise, it would be illegal. Good gamblers sometimes win and bad gamblers usually lose, but the only guaranteed winner is the government. To ensure the dollars keep rolling in, the federal government squashes potential competitors by passing laws against them. The gambling industry, once controlled by organized crime and associated with prostitution and alcoholics, is now a major source of state revenue.

The numbers are startling. Sixty-eight percent of Americans say they have gambled at least once in the past year, and the American Gaming Association estimates that Americans legally wager \$60.3 billion annually. Lotteries alone add nearly \$40 billion a year to state coffers. Gamers in the 11 states operating "commercial" casinos in 2000 contributed more than \$3.3 billion in tax revenue to state and local governments. Hitting the biggest jackpots were Nevada with \$707 million in taxes and Illinois with \$512 million.

Casinos operated on Indian reservations are not considered commercial casinos. Indian casinos first

appeared after a change in federal law in the early 1990s, but since then tribal gambling has rapidly evolved. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act requires that only tribal governments, not individuals, can



run gambling operations. About 200 federally recognized Indian tribes operate 309 gambling facilities in 29 states. In 2000, tribal gaming generated about \$10 billion in gross revenues.

Taxpayers foot the bill for an annual \$400 million in lottery advertising. The mantra of "you can't win if you don't buy a ticket" strikes a chord with many a player down on his or her luck. And of course "everybody wins" because the state rakes in so much of the profits.

At least one politician has used gambling as a plank in his campaign platform. In 1998, Don Siegelman promised to institute a state lottery to boost education funding if he was elected governor of Alabama. He said a lottery would produce \$150 million a year for university scholarships, a pre-kindergarten program and improvement of the state's decrepit schools.

Once elected, Siegelman called on college students to be fellow "soldiers in this battle." He urged them to promote gambling at their schools and churches. He posed with a class of smiling first graders who were encouraged to shout "Lottery!" instead of "Cheese!" Despite Siegelman's efforts, a high-profile referendum to institute an Alabama state lottery failed.

Columnist Michelle Malkin

## Profile of a casino gambler

■ People 65 and older make up a little more than 23 percent of all casino gamblers.

■ About 34 percent are in the 31-to-50-year-old bracket, edging out the 51-to-64 group everywhere except at tribal casinos.

■ White non-Hispanics constitute more than 70 percent of all casino gamblers.

■ Women gamblers outnumber men 52.3 percent to 47.7 percent.

■ Forty-five percent of players gamble \$100 a day or less; about 22 percent gamble between \$100 and \$500 a day.

Source: National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago





*"Government sent the mobsters to jail and then muscled in on their racket."*

– Pat Buchanan,  
former presidential candidate

government. Government sent the mobsters to jail and then muscled in on their racket."

### Who Really Plays?

Theoretically, lotteries are intended to raise money for needy states and communities without burdening the less affluent with higher taxes. This strikes to the heart of the controversy. Who really plays and who really pays?

Is it true that the people

least able to afford to lose money are the biggest players? Is the engine of the gambling industry really powered by the uneducated, minimum-wage masses?

Absolutely, the National Coalition Against Organized Gambling says. It asserts that instead of providing relief, lotteries burden those least able to play, and that blacks

and the elderly are the most likely to gamble.

The coalition also cites a Detroit study indicating that people with less than \$10,000 annual income spend the same amount on lottery tickets as those who earn \$70,000 or more. The study also reports that high-school dropouts spend more than five times – as a percentage of their income – on the lottery than gamblers with college degrees.

The coalition cites an Oregon study of lottery players that revealed a similar trend. Researchers said that if playing

weren't voluntary, lotteries would be a good example of the class-conflict theory – how the affluent and well-educated exploit the less-advantaged working class.

**Following the Money.** Advocates insist that legalized gambling creates new jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue. According to the American Gaming Association, players spent more than \$24 billion on casino gambling in 2000, up 8 percent from the previous year. Much of the money, proponents insist, is funneled directly back to the host communities. Commercial casinos paid nearly \$3.5 billion in taxes in 2000. That same year, those casinos employed about 370,000 people who earned about \$11 billion.

University of Illinois professor John Kindt asks analysts to take a closer look at those numbers. He estimates that for every dollar a state receives in gambling revenues

it costs the state nearly \$3 to fund escalating criminal-justice and social-welfare programs. Other reports indicate that discretionary spending in communities decreases when the lottery is introduced. They say that every dollar spent on the lottery instead of dinner at a local restaurant is a dollar siphoned from local economy.

East St.

Louis, Ill., is a case in point.

A thriving community of 80,000 as recently as 1960, East St. Louis once ranked first in the nation in the sale of horses, mules and hogs. In 1920, it was the

### The cash cows of gambling

Gross gambling revenue (GGR) is the amount wagered minus the winnings returned to players. GGR is used to determine what a casino, race track, lottery or other gambling operation earns before taxes, salaries and other expenses are paid.

2000 GROSS REVENUES	
<b>Pari-mutuel</b>	\$3.8 billion
<b>Lotteries</b>	\$17.2 billion
<b>Casinos</b>	\$26.3 billion
<b>Bookmaking</b>	\$130.6 million
<b>Indian reservations</b>	\$10.4 billion
<b>Charitable games and bingo</b>	\$2.5 billion

Source: Christiansen Capital Advisors, LLC

The *Casino Queen* riverboat was hailed by East St. Louis officials as the city's economic salvation when it arrived in 1993. Schools there remain in poor condition, though, and unemployment is high.

shakes a stern finger at the states for targeting advertising to an at-risk audience by concentrating their "everyone-is-a-winner" message around the first of each month. Malkin points out that government benefits, payroll and Social Security checks are issued on the first Tuesday of each month. She adds that although most lottery revenue is supposed to go to education, a *Money* magazine report discovered that states with lotteries actually spend a smaller proportion of their budgets on education than states without a lottery.

Former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan also takes the government to task.

"In the 1950s," Buchanan writes, "there was a great cry against the numbers racket. Petty mobsters were said to be robbing the black poor of their dimes and quarters. Gambling is a vice and an addiction, thundered reformers, and these wicked predators are preying on the urban poor. We cheered. But no sooner had the standing ovation ended than we learned the numbers racket was to be replaced by lotteries run by the

largest aluminum-processing center in the world, the nation's second busiest rail center, and the leading producer of roofing material, baking powder, paint pigment and coal.

How times have changed. Today, the city's remaining 31,542 residents have little to brag about. Wallowing in misery for decades, they live in a bankrupt city with thousands of abandoned homes and businesses. It has no daily newspaper or movie theater. The "All-American City" of 1956 now has one of the worst education records in the state. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development described East St. Louis as "the most distressed small city in America."

Those who remain in the city that was once home to tennis great Jimmy Connors, Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey and jazz legend Miles Davis live in or near crumbling or burned-out homes. An understaffed police force can't keep pace with the drug dealers, gangs and prostitutes lining the otherwise nearly empty streets. In 1990, East St. Louis garnered dubious national fame when it surrendered its city hall to settle a lawsuit for police brutality. It was the city's only asset of any value. East St. Louis was declared the murder capital of America in 1992.

Officials believed that a casino docked on the city's bleak, undeveloped riverfront was its only hope for salvation. But casino operators had to be coaxed to East St. Louis. Most investors were afraid that potential patrons would take their paychecks elsewhere because of the city's reputation, crime and lack of services. In 1993, however, five businessmen took a huge gamble and cruised their \$45 million *Casino Queen* into town and docked it on the Mississippi across from the St. Louis Gateway Arch. But gamblers, as they will do, also took a chance and immediately took their chips to the riverboat. They also left them there;

*"A mountain of evidence demonstrates a direct link between problem and pathological gambling and divorce, child abuse, domestic violence, bankruptcy, crime and suicide."*

— Dr. James Dobson,  
founder and president of Focus on the Family

investors recovered their initial outlay in six months.

There's been a steady flow of cash from the riverboat to East St. Louis ever since. Nearly half the city's annual budget comes from the \$9.6 million the *Casino Queen* generates in tax revenue. "The *Casino Queen* has greatly impacted the city of East St. Louis," Mayor Debra A. Powell said. "The revenues generated have helped the city become more financially stable."

It takes a selective eye to spot any improvements. Some services, like trash pickup, have improved. But the city still flirts with bankruptcy, schools are still dilapidated, the unemployment rate still soars and the once-busy shops remain shuttered. Vehicle traffic in downtown East St. Louis appears to be limited to gamblers going to and from the riverboat. Local businesses have seen little impact. A *Casino Queen* spokesman mentions only a florist and a dry cleaner, both of which do business with the riverboat, as direct beneficiaries.

**A Stacked Deck.** Many see something distasteful about cities and states promoting gambling to their citizens. Columnist Austin Abercrombie writes, "Traditionally, one of the legitimate roles of a republican government is to protect its citizens against harm, 'to promote the general welfare,' but state governments seem to be re-defining that role to one of 'How do we separate the sucker from his money?'"

In June 1999, the bipartisan National Gambling Impact Study Commission issued its final report. It was the first such study

performed in more than 20 years and shined an unwelcome light on the gambling industry.

Among the report's recommendations:

- Remove ATMs and credit machines from gambling areas.
- Ban Internet gambling.
- Prohibit wagering on collegiate and amateur events.

■ Post warnings about the dangers of gambling, as well as the odds, prominently in every gaming establishment.

■ State lotteries should be subject to truth-in-advertising laws.

■ Each gambling facility must implement procedures to allow addicts to voluntarily ban themselves from the facilities.

■ Restrict contributions from gambling concerns.

Dr. James Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, participated in the report as a member of the Gambling Impact Commission. His summary statement of the report is chilling.

"Clearly, gambling is a destroyer that ruins lives and wrecks families," Dobson wrote. "A mountain of evidence demonstrates a direct link between problem and pathological gambling and divorce, child abuse, domestic violence, bankruptcy, crime and suicide. When other activities, such as smoking, have been shown to be harmful, the hue and cry for regulations to warn and protect the public has been loud and long. Today, the silence of most of our leaders about the risks of gambling is deafening. It is well past time for a Paul Revere to sound the alarm. Gambling is hazardous to your – to our – health!"

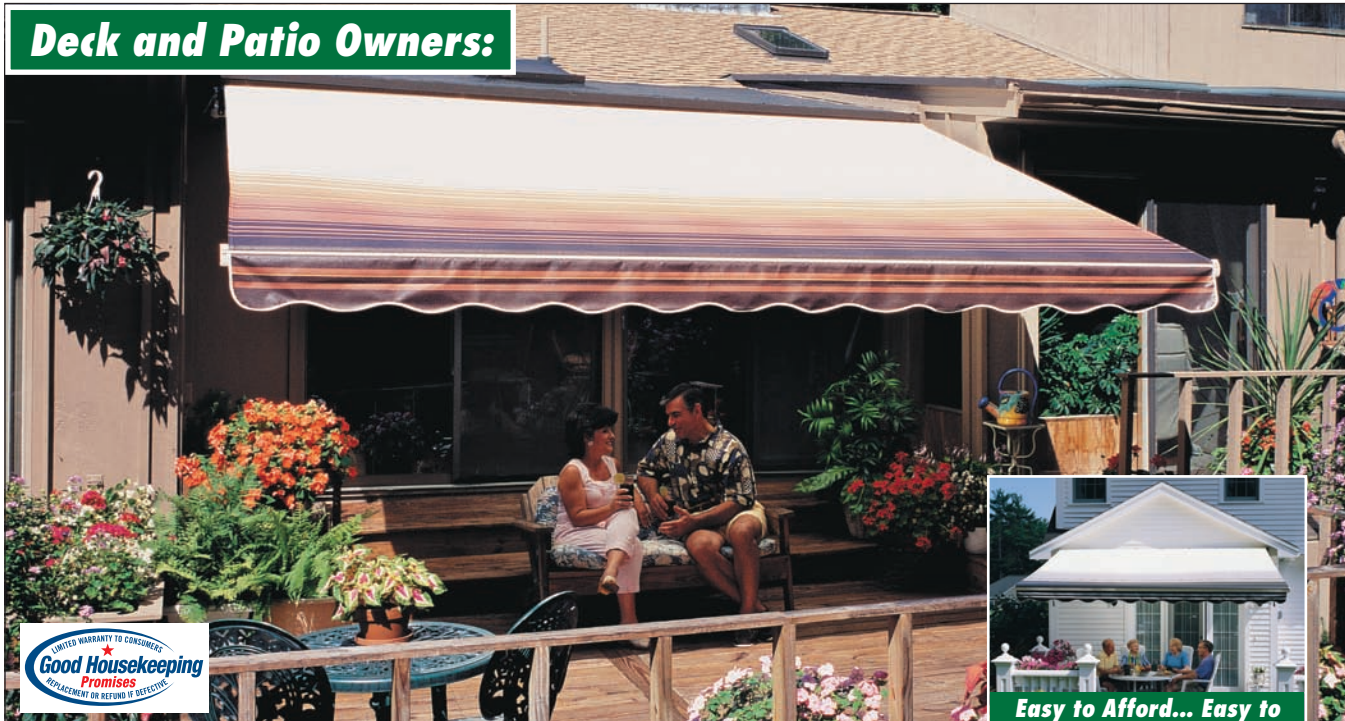
Until the commission's recommendations and other measures are adopted, gamblers are playing against a stacked deck, and casino owners and the states are holding all the cards. □

*Dan Allsup is a St. Louis-area freelance writer.*

*Article design: Holly K. Soria*



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# Old Weapon New Tactics

*For thousands of years, terrorism has been employed by governments and those committed to undoing them.*

BY ROBIN WRIGHT

The stunning terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11 set records for ambitious scope and death toll. But they were nothing new. The alleged agents of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network merely combined the most effective tactics of the past three decades with a style of warfare dating as far back as recorded history.

Terrorism in the name of religion is hardly new, either. The words "zealot," "thug" and "assassin" are all products of fanatic religious movements.

In the first century, Jewish Zealots slit the throats of occupying Romans and their collaborators in Palestine. Hindu Thugges enjoyed a reign of terror in seventh-century India, when they reportedly strangled or murdered 1 million people in the name of the Hindu deity Kali.

Shi'ite Muslim Assassins, a name derived from the original

Hashhashin because of the hash the young killers used, took on suicide assignments in the name of their sect against other Muslims and Christians alike, beginning in the 11th century. They were most infamous for their campaigns against Christian crusaders in the Holy Land in the 13th century.

The modern concept of terrorism is usually linked to the "reign of terror" during the French Revolution in the 18th century. Revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was arguably the first modern terrorist and his Jacobins the first modern terrorism group. Between 1793 and

1794, the Jacobins waged murderous terror against 12,000 to 40,000 people in the name of creating an ideal political state.

"Terror is nothing but justice – prompt, severe and inflexible," Robespierre pronounced, neatly summarizing the attitude of terrorists of vastly different circumstances, countries and causes over the next two centuries. In contrast to recent extremism,

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In April 2001, the U.S. Department of State released a report titled "Patterns of Global Terrorism," which chronicled occurrences and locations of terrorist activity during the year 2000. The report also contained a comprehensive list of foreign terrorist organizations and groups. The dossiers shown throughout this article describe some of the more well-known terrorist groups.



however, terrorism was then a weapon of the state.

Terrorism has evolved in several broad phases, both by governments and by those committed to undoing them, Columbia University historian David Greenberg says.

A new ideology or opposition to an old one was often the flashpoint in the 19th century. Revolutionaries, radicals and anarchists targeted powerful political and business leaders from the United States to Russia. Among their victims were Tsar Alexander II in 1881 and President William McKinley in 1901. Their attacks included the deadly bombing of Chicago's Haymarket Square in 1886 and the *Los Angeles Times* building in 1910. The attack with

the most extensive impact, however, was the 1914 assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb extremist, which triggered a sequence of events leading to World War I.

**On the Move.** In the 20th century, terrorism gained momentum and new direction as independence movements received popular support, particularly in Europe's troubled empires in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Nationalist causes and demands for empowerment after World War II produced legendary movements, ranging from

Algeria's National Liberation Front and Kenya's Mau Mau to the Viet Minh in Vietnam. Frustrated by the inability to make headway, liberation movements began targeting both colonial symbols and colonials to force them out. After the horrors of the Holocaust, the Irgun and the Stern Gang also emerged to increase political pressure for a Jewish homeland in British-mandated Palestine.

Algeria's gruesome eight-year war of liberation, launched in 1954, set the precedent during this phase. Tens of thousands died in waves of bloody attacks,



AP

## AL-QAIDA

### Description

Established by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s to bring together Arabs who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet invasion, al-Qaida helped finance, recruit, transport and train Sunni Islamic extremists for the Afghan resistance. Al-Qaida's goal is to establish a global pan-Islamic caliphate by working with Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it deems "non-Muslim countries." Issued statement in February 1998 saying it is the duty of all Muslims to kill U.S. citizens - civilian or military - and their allies everywhere.

### Activities

Conducted bombings in August 1998 of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed at least 301 people and injured more than 5,000 others. Claims to have shot down U.S. helicopters and killed U.S. servicemen in Somalia in 1993 and to have conducted three bombings that targeted U.S. troops in Aden, Yemen, in December 1992. Linked to plans to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his visit to Manila in late 1994; simultaneous bombings of the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Manila and other Asian capitals in late 1994; the midair bombing of a dozen U.S. trans-Pacific flights in 1995; and to kill President Clinton during a visit to the Philippines in early 1995. Continues to train, finance and provide logistic support to terrorist groups in support of these goals.

### Strength

Several hundred to several thousand members. Also serves as an umbrella organization for a worldwide network that includes many Sunni Islamic extremist groups.

### Location/Area of Operation

Al-Qaida has a worldwide reach, with cells in a number of countries and reinforced by its ties to Sunni extremist networks. Bin Laden and his key lieutenants most recently resided in Afghanistan, where the group maintained terrorist training camps.

### External Aid

Bin Laden, son of a billionaire Saudi family, is said to have inherited approximately \$300 million that he uses to finance the group. Al-Qaida also maintains moneymaking front organizations, solicits donations from like-minded supporters and illicitly siphons funds from donations to Muslim charitable organizations.

## NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY

(NPA)

### Description

The military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA is a Maoist group formed in March 1969 with the aim of overthrowing the government through protracted guerrilla warfare. Although primarily a rural-based group, the NPA has an active urban infrastructure to conduct terrorism and uses city-based assassination squads called sparrow units. The NPA derives most of its funding from contributions of supporters and so-called revolutionary taxes extorted from local businesses.

### Activities

The NPA primarily targets Philippine security forces, corrupt politicians and drug traffickers. Opposes U.S. military presence in the Philippines and attacked U.S. military interests before U.S. base closures in 1992. Reports in 1999 indicated the NPA would target U.S. troops participating in joint military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement and U.S. Embassy personnel.

### Strength

Estimated between 6,000 and 8,000.

### Location/Area of Operation

Operates in rural Luzon, Visayas and parts of Mindanao. Has cells in Manila and other metropolitan centers.

### External Aid

Unknown.



## HAMAS

### Islamic Resistance Movement

#### Description

Formed in late 1987 as an outgrowth of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas has used both political and violent means - including terrorism - to pursue the goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel. Loosely structured, some elements work clandestinely and others work openly through mosques and social-service institutions to recruit members, raise money, organize activities and distribute propaganda. Hamas' strength is concentrated in the Gaza strip and a few areas of the West Bank.

#### Activities

Hamas activists have conducted many attacks - including large-scale suicide bombings - against Israeli civilian and military targets. Claimed several attacks during the unrest in late 2000.

#### Strength

Unknown number of hard-core members; tens of thousands of supporters and sympathizers.

#### Location/Area of Operation

Primarily the occupied territories, Israel. In August 1999, Jordanian authorities closed the group's offices in Amman, arrested its leaders and prohibited it from operating in Jordanian territory.

#### External Aid

Receives funding from Palestinian expatriates, Iran, private benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states. Some fund-raising and propaganda activities take place in Western Europe and North America.



## HEZBOLLAH

### Party of God

a.k.a. Islamic Jihad, Revolutionary Justice Organization of the Oppressed on Earth and Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine

#### Description

A Radical Shia group formed in Lebanon, Hezbollah is dedicated to increasing its political power in Lebanon and opposing Israel and Middle East peace negotiations. Strongly anti-West and anti-Israel. Closely allied with Iran, Hezbollah may have conducted some operations not approved by Tehran.

#### Activities

Known or suspected to have been involved in numerous anti-U.S. terrorist attacks, including the suicide truck bombing of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983 and the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984. Elements of the group were responsible for the kidnapping and detention of U.S. and other Western hostages in Lebanon. The group also attacked the Israeli Embassy in Argentina in 1992 and is suspected in the 1994 bombing of the Israeli cultural center in Buenos Aires. In fall 2000, it captured three Israeli soldiers in the Shabaa Farms and kidnapped an Israeli non-combatant whom it perhaps lured to Lebanon under false pretenses.

#### Strength

Several thousand supporters and a few hundred terrorist operatives.

#### Location/Area of Operation

Operates in the Bekaa Valley, the southern suburbs of Beirut and southern Lebanon. Has established cells in Europe, Africa, South America, North America and Asia.

#### External Aid

Receives support from Iran and Syria.



## PALESTINE ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)

#### Description

Originated among militant Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during the 1970s, the PIJ is committed to the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state and the destruction of Israel through holy war. Because of its support for the PIJ, the United States has been identified as an enemy interests if the U.S. Embassy is moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

#### Activities

The PIJ conducted at least three attacks against Israeli interests in late 2000 and suicide bombings against Israeli targets in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel.

#### Strength

Unknown.

#### Location/Area of Operation

Primarily Israel and the occupied territories and other parts of the Middle East, including Lebanon and Jordan. Headquartered in Syria.

#### External Aid

Receives financial assistance from Iran and limited logistical assistance from Syria.

## AL-JIHAD

a.k.a. Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Jihad Group, Islamic Jihad

#### Description

A close partner of bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, this Egyptian Islamic extremist group has been active since the late 1970s. Numerous operatives have been arrested worldwide, most recently in Lebanon and Yemen. The group's primary goal is to overthrow the Egyptian government and replace it with an Islamic state.

#### Activities

Al-Jihad specializes in armed attacks against high-level Egyptian government personnel and car bombings against official U.S. and Egyptian facilities. The original Jihad was responsible for the assassination in 1981 of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The group claimed responsibility for the Egyptian Embassy bombing in Islamabad in 1995; in 1998, its planned attack against the U.S. Embassy in Albania was thwarted.

#### Strength

Several hundred hard-core members, by most estimates.

#### Location/Area of Operation

Operates in the Cairo area. Has a network outside Egypt, including Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Lebanon and the United Kingdom.

#### External Aid

Not known. The Egyptian government claims that both Iran and bin Laden support al-Jihad.



retribution and counterattacks by the Front de La Libération Nationale and the French army. Vast numbers were civilians. In a message that resonated throughout the Third World, the French finally opted to end colonial rule as victory became unlikely and the costs too unpopular at home to justify an open-ended conflict. Algeria won its independence in 1962, one of the early countries among many to gain independence over the next four decades.

The FLN inspired dozens of other movements on five continents in the 1960s and 1970s – a period of political turmoil as extremists defiantly took on autocratic regimes, fought for nationalist causes or challenged democracies. Terrorism increasingly moved into the cities.

In Europe, the Baader-Meinhoff Gang gained world attention in 1968 after torching a Frankfurt department store in West Germany, while the Irish Republican Army adopted extremist tactics in 1969, the year British troops were deployed in Northern Ireland. The Red Brigades launched their first attacks in Italy in 1970, the same year the Red Army emerged in Japan.

In Latin America, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia became the first

Marxist insurgency in 1964. It was later linked to a string of bombings, murders, kidnappings and hijackings; it remains the continent's largest, most active and best-equipped extremist group. Che Guevara inspired leftist movements that targeted the region's military dictatorships well beyond his death in 1967. In an act that presaged the vulnerability of Americans abroad, Uruguay's Tupamaros kidnapped and killed a U.S. adviser to local police.

Some of the most notorious extremists operated during this period. Among them was "Carlos," the Venezuelan-born leftist who carried out a string of brazen assassinations and hostage seizures, including the 1975 takeover of an OPEC summit in Vienna. Three people were killed, and 11 oil ministers were released only after payment of a huge ransom.

Political turmoil and technology intensified the disparate trends. The Vietnam War

in the late 1960s and early 1970s radicalized activists far beyond American shores, eventually leading some to go underground and challenge the establishment. The 15-year Lebanese civil war, which erupted in 1975, created sufficient anarchy that dozens of groups – some as far removed from the region as the Japanese Red Army – could set up shop and create their own fiefdoms.

The proliferation of arms, both large and small, and the sophistication of explosives provided the access to deadly means and greater ease in concealing them. The first phase of the communications revolution also turned terrorism into global theater – and visually took the causes of

## AUM SUPREME TRUTH

a.k.a. Aum Shinrikyo, Aleph

### Description

Established in 1987 by Shoko Asahara, the Aum aimed to take over Japan, then the world. Approved as a religious entry in 1989 under Japanese law, the group ran candidates in a Japanese parliamentary election in 1990 and began to emphasize apocalypse would be initiated by the United States in a war with Japan. The Japanese government revoked its recognition of the Aum as a religious organization in October 1995, but in 1997 a government panel decided not to invoke the Anti-Subversive Law against the group, which would have outlawed it. In 2000, Fumihiko Joju took control of the Aum following a three-year jail sentence for perjury. Under Joju's leadership the Aum changed its name to Aleph and claims to have rejected the violent and apocalyptic teachings of its founder.

### Activities

On March 20, 1995, Aum members simultaneously released the chemical nerve agent sarin on several Tokyo subway trains, killing 12 and injuring up to 6,000. The group was responsible for other mysterious chemical accidents in Japan in 1994. Japanese police arrested Asahara in May 1995, and he remained on trial, facing 17 counts of murder at the end of 2000. Since 1997 the cult has continued to recruit new members, engage in commercial enterprise and acquire property.

### Strength

1,500 to 2,000 members. At the time of the Tokyo subway attack, the Aum claimed to have 9,000 members in Japan and up to 40,000 worldwide.

### Location/Area of Operation

Primarily Japan, with a smaller unknown number of followers in Russia.

### External Aid

None.

## ALEX BONCAYAO BRIGADE

(ABB)

### Description

The ABB, the breakaway urban hit squad of the Communist Party of the Philippines New People's Army, was formed in the mid-1980s.

### Activities

Responsible for more than 100 murders and believed to have been involved with the 1989 murder of U.S. Army Col. James Rowe in the Philippines. In March 2000, the group claimed credit for a rifle grenade attack against the Department of Energy building in Manila and strafed Shell Oil offices in the central Philippines to protest rising oil prices.

### Strength

Approximately 500.

### Location/Area of Operation

Manila and central Philippines.

### External Aid

Unknown.

## PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT (PLF)

### Description

The PLF broke away from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command in the mid-1970s and split again into pro-Palestine Liberation Organization, pro-Syrian and pro-Libyan factions.

### Activities

Known for aerial attacks against Israel, the Abu Abbas group was responsible for the attack in 1985 on the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer.

### Strength

Unknown.

### Location/Area of Operation

Iraq.

### External Aid

Mainly from Iraq, though it has received support from Libya in the past.



AP

## POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)

### Description

This Marxist-Leninist group was founded in 1967. Joined the Alliance of Palestinian Forces to oppose the Declaration of Principles signed in 1993 and suspended participation in the PLO. Broke away from the PLO over ideological differences. Took part in meetings with Arafat's Fatah party and PLO representatives in 1999 to discuss national unity and the reinvigoration of the PLO but opposes negotiations with Israel.

### Activities

Committed numerous international attacks during the 1970s. Since 1978, it has conducted attacks against Israeli or moderate Arab targets, including killing a settler and her son in December 1996.

### Strength

Approximately 800.

### Location/Area of Operation

Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the occupied territories.

### External Aid

Receives safe haven and some logistic assistance from Syria.

unknown groups into homes thousands of miles away. The Olympics were first aired via live satellite in 1964 from Tokyo. By the Munich Olympics in 1972, hundreds of millions could watch the drama playing out when Palestinians in Black September murdered 11 Israeli athletes. By the early 1970s, big-bodied jets also made international travel increasingly common – and made airplanes vulnerable targets.

**Islamic Extremists.** Of all the regions challenged by terrorism, the Islamic world has witnessed or produced the perpetrators of the most notorious acts over the past 20 years. The 1983 bombing at the Marine barracks in Beirut was the largest non-nuclear explosion since World War II; the 241 deaths were the largest loss of military life in a single incident since Vietnam. The 1988 mid-air bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, for which two Libyan intelligence agents were subsequently convicted, killed 270 passengers and people on the ground. The 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, for which bin Laden has been indicted, killed more than 300 and injured thousands.

Nationalism was the original spark. For the region, the turning point was July 23, 1968, when three Palestinian extremists commandeered an El Al flight shortly after it took off from Rome bound for Tel Aviv. Gunmen of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) diverted the plane to Algeria, where it languished during the longest hijacking in history. The Boeing 707, the crew and a handful of male Israeli passengers were held in Algiers for the next 40 days – until Israel succumbed to the hijackers' demands and freed 16 Arab extremists from its jails.

That was not the first hijacking. Around the world, assorted revolutionaries, radicals and homesick Cubans hijacked dozens of flights since 1959, says Bruce Hoffman, a Rand Corp. specialist on terrorism. But these bold acts of air piracy crossed a

tactical threshold by injecting politics and forcing a government to change policies – a practice soon widely copied by other extremists, not only in the Middle East.

"When we hijack a plane, it has more effect than if we killed a hundred Israelis in battle," declared PFLP chief George Habash. "At least the world is talking about us now." A year later, the PFLP hijacked a TWA flight en route from New York to Tel Aviv. And in 1970, in perhaps the most dramatic hijacking before Sept. 11, the PFLP hijacked four airliners – TWA, Pan Am, Swissair and British Air – that were flown to Jordan, Beirut and Cairo. Passengers were eventually released in exchange for freedom for Arabs



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imprisoned in Israel and Europe. All four planes were blown up.

The El Al hijacking coincided with a broader political crisis in the Middle East, which grew out of the 1967 war. During the third Arab-Israeli conflict, the small Jewish state swiftly overwhelmed Egypt, Jordan and Syria and captured historic Jerusalem, the third holiest site of Islam. In a mere six days, Israel more than doubled the land under its control. The losses decimated pan-Arab nationalism, the dominant political force at the time. Rarely had the Islamic world known such total and humiliating defeat.

Many Muslims believed inferior Arab military capabilities were not the only reason for their losses. Some even felt Israel won because Jews had been more faithful to their religion and that Muslims had lost because they abandoned their faith for a secular ideology. The crisis of confidence generally led vast numbers to turn inward for answers – and, over time, to their faith, which offered inspiration, a set of principles and a means of mobilization to respond to the defeat and failures of the past.

The impact of this budding movement was visible in the fourth Arab-Israeli war in 1973, which was fought in the name of Islam, not the pan-Arab cause. The Arab offensive was code-named “Badr” after the prophet Mohammed’s first victory in the seventh century. The rallying cry was “Allahu Akhbar,” or “God is great.” The Arabs lost, but they fought well and achieved key political objectives, including recognition that land would have to be swapped to achieve peace. The success – and the implicit message that Islam provided a viable alternative – rippled throughout the 50-plus nations of the Islamic world.

The use of militant Islam exploded six years later in two pivotal events: first, the 1979 Iranian revolution when Islamic leaders mobilized disparate political factions to end the Pahlavi dynasty and a system of government dating back some 2,500 years. Second, the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which triggered the rise of the mujahadeen holy warriors who relentlessly waged clandestine attacks against Soviet troops for a decade.

After those two cataclysmic



## IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

(IRA)

a.k.a. Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA), the Provos

### Description

A terrorist group formed in 1969 as a clandestine armed wing of Sinn Féin, a legal political movement dedicated to removing British forces from Northern Ireland and unifying Ireland, the IRA has a Marxist orientation and is organized into small cells under the leadership of an army council.

### Activities

Bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, punishment beatings, extortion, smuggling and robberies. Targets have included senior British government officials, British military and police in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Loyalist paramilitary groups, train and subway stations and shopping areas on mainland Britain, British and Royal Ulster Constabulary targets in Northern Ireland, and a British military facility on the European continent. The IRA has observed a cease-fire since July 1997.

### Strength

Several hundred members and several thousand sympathizers.

### Location/Area of Operation

Northern Ireland, Irish Republic, Great Britain and Europe.

### External Aid

The IRA has in the past received aid from a variety of groups and countries, as well as considerable training and arms from Libya and the PLO.

## REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC)

### Description

Established in 1964 as the military wing of the Colombian Communist Party, FARC is Colombia’s oldest, largest, most capable and best-equipped Marxist insurgency. In 2000, the group continued peace negotiations with the Pastrana administration, which gained the group a demilitarized zone used as a venue for negotiations. The government reclaimed the zone in February 2002 after FARC hijacked an airliner and kidnapped a senator.

### Activities

Bombings, murder, kidnapping, extortion, hijacking as well as guerrilla and conventional military action against Colombian political, military and economic targets. In March 1999, FARC executed three U.S. Indian rights activists on Venezuelan territory after kidnapping them in Colombia. FARC often kidnaps foreigners for ransom money and has well-documented ties to narcotics traffickers, principally by providing armed protection. In recent months, the group has targeted electrical-transmission towers and reservoirs, leaving many parts of Colombia without electricity, water and telephone service.

### Strength

Approximately 9,000 to 12,000 armed combatants and an unknown number of supporters.

### Location/Area of Operation

Colombia, with some activities in Venezuela, Panama and Ecuador.

### External Aid

Cuba provides some medical care and political consultation.



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events, Islam was increasingly injected into both Mideast politics and extremist campaigns in the 1980s, often rivaling traditional nationalist groups. Egypt's Islamic Jihad assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Hezbollah, or the Party of God, emerged in Lebanon after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Its cells were linked with the Marine bombing, two U.S. Embassy bombings, and the seizure of dozens of American and other Western hostages in the mid-1980s. Islamic extremist groups grew up throughout the Arab world, in countries as different as the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and socialist Syria. The 1985 coup by a fiercely Islamic movement in Sudan created a third safe haven – along with Lebanon and Pakistan, from where the

mujahadeen waged war against the Soviets in Afghanistan – for Muslim militants.

Islamic extremists increasingly prevailed – even against the world's two superpowers and the Mideast superpower. In 1984, the United States opted to withdraw its troops from Beirut; the peace-keeping mission was no longer viable. In 1985, Israel partially withdrew from a large chunk of Lebanon – without alternative security arrangements. Under pressure of Hezbollah military and terrorist attacks, the costs of the three-year occupation had become too high. In 1989, the Soviet Union pulled out of Afghanistan after losing thousands of its troops.

**Going Global.** By the mid-1990s, Islamic extremism was the most energetic force in both the Mideast and South Asia, but also as far afield as the Philippines. It was used with particular impact on two fronts by the

end of the 20th century.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, unable or unwilling to achieve a final peace treaty with Israel after talks began in 1993, found itself challenged by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Islamic passions began to reshape Palestinian politics, particularly after the second “intifada,” or uprising, began in 2000. As peace efforts crumbled, suicide attacks by young militants grew ever more frequent and deadly.

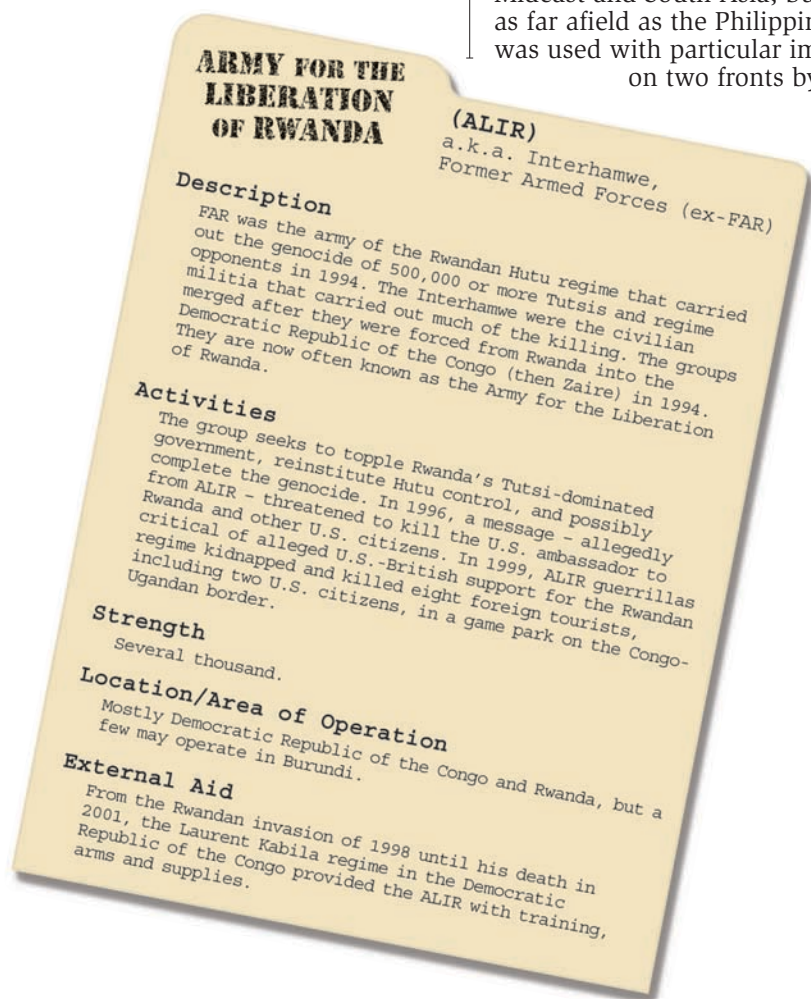
Second, Saudi militant Osama bin Laden harnessed the rage and political discontent, first from Sudan between 1991 and 1996, then from Afghanistan. Once a de-facto ally of the United States in fighting the Cold War's last battle, he turned on the United States after Operation Desert Storm in 1991, when 500,000 troops were deployed in Saudi Arabia to liberate little oil-rich Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Bin Laden turned first against his own government for allowing “infidel” troops in the birthplace of Islam and the home of its two holiest shrines. Then he turned against the United States as the “prop” for sustaining Saudi rule.

In 1993, bin Laden's allies and surrogates launched their terrorist attacks against American targets, including the first attack on the World Trade Center and the attack in Somalia that killed 18 U.S. troops participating in Operation Restore Hope. His fury escalated after the United States squeezed Sudan into expelling him in 1996. In 1998, al-Qaida in turn escalated its attacks on American targets.

The rest is now well-known history: the 1998 bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the 2000 bombing of the USS *Cole* anchored off Yemen and Sept. 11. □

*Robin Wright, the author of “Sacred Rage: The Wrath of Militant Islam,” has been writing about terrorism for more than two decades. She has lived and traveled in the Middle East and South Asia since 1973.*

Article design: King Doxsee





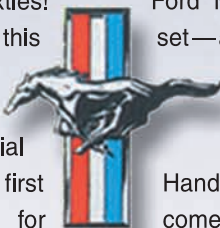
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# The Big Squeeze



*Expansive study of bottlenecked VA facilities appears to rank dollars ahead of promised health care for veterans.*

BY STEVE BROOKS

World War II veteran Sylvester Johnson remembers the hazards he faced as a soldier sidestepping enemy landmines in Italy. One misstep sent him into the Veterans Administration health-care system. He did not realize it at the time, but his days of trying to figure out where to step next were far from over. As a patient at VA's Heinz Medical Center in Pittsburgh, he's still unsure.

"The transition from what it was when I started and what it is now is a whole new ballgame," he said. With a multimillion-dollar study now under way aimed at downsizing and consolidating many of the agency's health-care facilities, the only thing Johnson can count on is that more change is coming.

According to surveys conducted by The American Legion and other organizations, VA patients sing a common refrain: they praise the quality of care and money they save in the system, but they bitterly complain about doctor accessibility, long delays in waiting rooms, nursing shortages and the

agency's eternal battle for federal funds. The strain, they say, can sometimes be seen in the faces of doctors and nurses. It all boils down to money. The system receives just enough funding to get by, which isn't enough to meet the growing, changing demands of an aging population of veterans whose medical needs are unique due to their military experiences.

VA health care simply isn't the federal budget priority it used to be. "Go back to 1933, when President Roosevelt signed the Economy Act, which killed all veterans' benefits," said Paul A. Morin, chairman of The American Legion Legislative Commission. "It was one-quarter of the federal budget at the time. Now VA's budget is a drop in the federal bucket."

The war on terrorism, enhanced homeland security and the past year's recession have understandably darkened the federal budget forecast. And while President George W. Bush's proposed fiscal 2003 budget includes an 8.2-percent increase in VA health-care spending, in terms of dollars that's \$1.4 billion – \$1 billion of which

merely covers cost-of-living adjustments, pay raises and inflation.

The Virginia-based national consulting firm of Booz-Allen and Hamilton has been conducting an expansive \$60 million study for VA called CARES, or Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. Comparable to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) effort that dismantled more than 100 U.S. military installations and more than half the DoD's medical centers, CARES analyzes VA health-care facilities to see if they can be streamlined or eliminated to save money. The American Legion is concerned that the study, and the spirit behind it, puts dollars ahead of America's promise to veterans.

**From Inpatient to Outpatient.** According to the General Accounting Office, VA hospitalization dropped by 20,000 patients a day in the past decade. The GAO expects the number of veterans using the VA system to decline by 30 percent in the next 30 years. But at the same time, the GAO predicts the number of veterans 85 and older to double



by next year and double again by 2013, leading to higher demand for long-term care. The agency's 4,972 buildings are aging. Some are so outdated they cannot be renovated cost-effectively to fulfill the requirements of modern medical technology. Undeniably, the system is at a crossroads.

The CARES study will ultimately evaluate 21 VA service networks throughout the country. One study of seven medical centers and more than 30 clinics in the Midwest is already complete, and VA has decided to follow recommendations that include transferring all of Chicago's Lakeside Hospital inpatient service over to the remodeled West Side Hospital across town.

"The vast majority of the health care VA provides to veterans is on an outpatient basis," VA Secretary Anthony Principi said in announcing the decision. "These changes will enable us to make the best use of our resources by redirecting them where they are most needed and, at the same time, allowing us to treat more veterans at more locations."

Community-Based Outreach Clinics (CBOCs) have been developed in recent years to provide basic primary outpatient care and prescriptions on a local basis. Their emergence has paved the way to shrink and consolidate more costly hospitals and medical centers under VA administration.

The CARES plan for the Midwest network also calls for renovations at Edward Hines Jr. Hospital in Hines, Ill.; an enhanced partnership between North Chicago VA Medical Center and Naval Hospital Great Lakes; and building on VA's longtime relationship with Northwestern University Medical Center and the University of Illinois.

If this first set of CARES recommendations is the new model for VA, veterans' health care may be looking at a future under the umbrella of outsourced health care that doesn't necessarily take into account the unique medical needs of veterans. That concerns The American Legion.

**No Turning Back.** "My gut instinct is that we'll lose hospitals that we won't be able to get back if these

*"We have people showing up every day that we've never seen before wanting to get into the system. That's a challenge. One of the mechanisms we use to hold down costs is to hold people at the door until you can work with them."*

— Michael E. Moreland,  
director and CEO,  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

are not the right decisions," said Jackie Garrick, former deputy director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. "In (the Midwest network) they're looking at turning some things over to university affiliates or the private sector, then buying back services. The problem we have with that is that there's no guarantee or accountability once the contracts go into effect. If those outside contractors decide they no longer want to treat veterans, what's to prevent

them from stopping?"

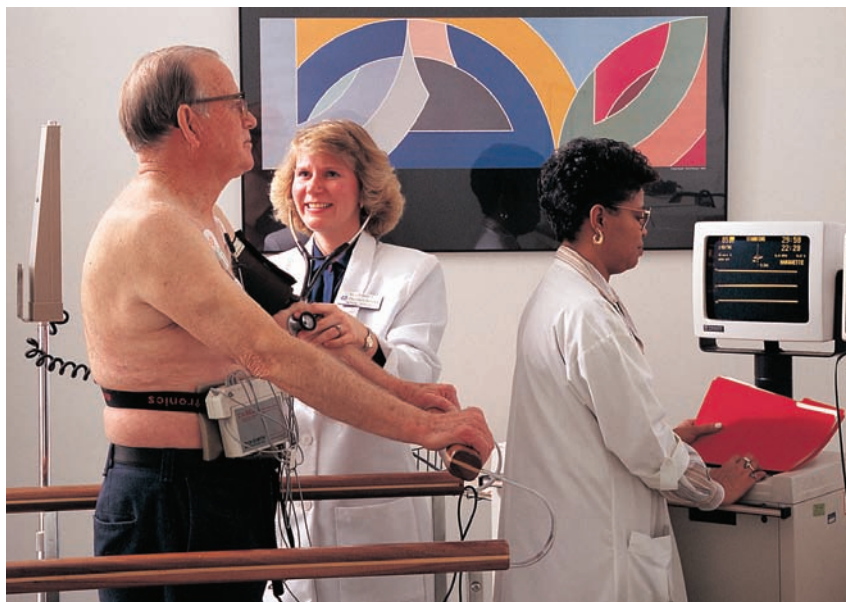
Contracts and leases also expire. "The problem with leasing space is that the contract can be terminated at any time," said Joe Sharpe, assistant director of VA&R. "Lakeside (Chicago) serves about 25,000 veterans a year. Where will they go? VA will say those patients can be absorbed by other hospitals, but it will be difficult for them to get transportation to and from their new hospitals. Chicago freeways are always under construction."

Concerns about the CARES study raised by The American Legion include:

- Reliance on VA's own data – which the Legion has often found to be inaccurate, miscoded or inconsistent – making generalizations about length of patient stay and cost-per-patient untrustworthy.

- The assumption that VA should follow the same model as private-sector managed-care organizations. "Managed care turns a profit by enrolling the healthiest of beneficiaries and rationing their care," said Garrick, who explained that VA's primary-care patient population presents more chronic illnesses and complex needs than would an employee-based program.

- CARES fails to give mental health and homelessness enough



The Department of Veterans Affairs medical staff provides top-notch care and groundbreaking research in several fields. Lack of funding often makes that care difficult to obtain. VA

## America's treatment of veterans through history

**1637:** While at war with the Pequot Indians, the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony pass a law stating that disabled soldiers are to be supported by the colony.

**1776:** The Continental Congress encourages enlistment in the Revolutionary War by providing pensions for soldiers who are disabled. Direct medical and hospital care for veterans is provided by individual states and communities.

**1811:** The first medical facilities for veterans are authorized by the federal government, soon followed by an expanded veterans assistance program to include benefits and pensions for veterans, their widows and dependents.

**Post-Civil War:** Many state veterans homes are established, making domiciliary care and incidental medical care available, service-originated or not. Indigent and disabled veterans of the Civil War, Indian wars, Spanish-American War and Mexican Border period, as well as discharged regular members of the armed forces, are cared for at these homes.

**1917:** With the United States' entry into World War I, Congress establishes a new system of veterans benefits, including programs for disability compensation, insurance for servicepersons and veterans and vocational rehabilitation for the disabled. Those benefits are administered by three different federal agencies: the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Those three agencies evolve into bureaus within the Veterans Administration in 1930.

**1989:** The Department of Veterans Affairs is established as a Cabinet-level position after intense lobbying by The American Legion. President George H.W. Bush hails the creation of the new department. "There is only one place for the veterans of America: in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America," he says.

**1995:** VA is divided into 22 integrated service networks, and control over its 173 hospitals is decentralized.

**2001:** VA launches its Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) study, which The American Legion fears will decrease facilities and cut service to veterans.

attention, which affects many other assumptions about inpatient lengths of stay and outpatient availability.

■ The study assumes VA enrollment will decrease over time, while the opposite has been happening. Veterans who have never before used the system are now doing so, due to the outreach efforts of the service networks and veterans service organizations.

■ No evidence exists that the consulting firm considered rates of uninsured patients and the effect insurability in the private sector will have on veterans who will need to access the VA in the future.

■ The study offers little discussion on VA outperforming the private sector in several benchmark areas, particularly the Medicare compliance and low death rates from medical errors.

Among leaders in the field and even in the VA Central Office, little behind-the-scenes support exists for the CARES study, partly because the consulting firm won't have to live with its own recommendations. Veterans will.

"These firms are hired as consultants," Sharpe said. "They're going to give some pie-in-the-sky solution, then they'll walk away. VA is paying \$60 million to do the study, and all (Booz-Allen and Hamilton) is doing is taking data and giving VA recommendations. They're not looking to see if VA is capable of implementing the changes or showing how to implement them. They don't stay to see if their recommendations can work."

**The Backlog.** Demand is not a problem. "We have people showing up every day that we've never seen before wanting to get into the system," said Michael E. Moreland, director and CEO of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. "That's a challenge. One of the mechanisms we use to hold down costs is to hold people at the door until you can work with them." That produces long delays for patients waiting for their initial doctor's appointment in the system.

George Brattain served in the Army for 23 years before retiring in 1972 with a 100-percent service-connected disability rating.

He's seen VA health care up close, having used the system exclusively since 1984. He's now Indiana's VA Volunteer Service representative at Roudebush Medical Center in Indianapolis. He says the care is good at Roudebush, but the average wait time for an initial appointment is 30 to 45 days.

Vietnam War veteran Robert O. Smith, a patient last fall at Heinz Medical Center in Pittsburgh, says the VA waiting game is frustrating. "I blew my knee out in December of 2000, and it took until June to get it operated on," he said. "A week or two longer and I would have lost my leg. Some nurses really do care. Some doctors really do care. Once you sit down with them, they do what they can to help you. But you've got to catch them first."

Smith took part in a focus-group study, one of dozens conducted by American Legion field representatives on VA site visits last year. Most participants praised the care they received in the system, but the red tape and appointment delays make many veterans feel mistreated.

The American Legion National Field Service found that veterans wait up to 100 days for specialized-care appointments in cardiology, neurology, pulmonary, podiatry, dental and physical medicine, and rehabilitation clinics.

"I conducted 13 focus groups last year for veterans using VA facilities," Sharpe said. "Once those veterans got into the system, they felt the quality of care they'd received was great; better than that in the private sector. However, it's been difficult to get in. Getting transportation to VA facilities, as well as waiting times, were the problems. And because of a shortage of staff at many of the facilities, some of the veterans said they could sense stress from the caregivers. There were few complaints about the quality of care. It's just getting that service."

Robert Smith, a patient at University Drive Hospital in Pittsburgh, reported that he has "sat waiting for a prescription as long as three and a half hours. For a prescription for glasses, it took a year to get an appointment. And it took me a year and a half to get a





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Because of recommendations by the CARES study, Chicago's West Side Hospital, above, will now take on all the inpatient services provided previously by Lakeside Hospital. *VA*

set of teeth. They're just short-handed here."

"To get a personal-care physician, the backup for an appointment is three to four months," said Richard McCluskey, a patient at University Drive. "That's how backed up and understaffed this place is. Veterans deserve the care they were promised."

Staffing problems don't end with physicians. Steve Dennison, the Legion's assistant service officer for Pennsylvania, discovered that nurse shortages meant cold meals for patients. "Feeding one veteran might take one nurse up to 30 minutes," Dennison said. "If one nurse is trying feed more than one patient at a time, this becomes unsafe – not to mention the logistics of trying to get patients bathed and dressed. They can only do half the patients a shift."

Nursing shortages in one Southwest service network forced the closing of 70 beds at the Albuquerque, N.M., Medical Center, and patients were diverted to facilities as far away as California and Colorado.

### Bringing the Clinic to the Patient.

In recent years, VA has trained its focus on outpatient services through the development of Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. Patients don't have to drive nearly

as far to get VA care, but CBOCs offer little more than primary care and prescriptions. Patients needing specialized care are referred back to larger medical centers.

"If you're going in for a routine visit or pharmacy updates, then they're fine," Brattain said. "But if you've got anything really wrong with you, then they'll refer you to a major hospital. They were established to cut down on travel time for veterans, but if all the clinics do is refer you to a hospital, then what's the point? I think it's a waste of VA dollars." CBOCs, with their limited hours of operation and only the most basic services, are fed by scarce funds that might otherwise be used at VA hospitals that provide the kind of specialized care the largest percentage of the veteran population needs.

"These outpatient clinics do provide easier access," Garrick said. "But veteran health issues tend to be more complicated and complex, and there tend to be more mental-health problems."

"If you open up a CBOC in a community where there wasn't one before, you'll find out many of the veterans in the community are already in need of specialty care," Sharpe said. "Some of those patients are suffering from three to four ailments already. Primary care won't do it for them."

**The Fiscal Waiting Room.** VA officials are in a tough spot: trying to provide quality care on a shoe-string budget. "The budget is the driving force behind all of this," said Thomas Cadmus, chairman of The American Legion's VA&R Commission. "The demand for services isn't going down. Instead, it's bottlenecked. If there were more doctors, more space could be used, and then VA could treat more veterans. Instead, those demands are rerouted."

Moreland, who oversees University Drive, H.J. Heinz III Progressive Care Center and Highland Drive Division in Pittsburgh, says VA can't keep up with rising costs in other sectors of the health-care industry. "We expect to have between 2 percent and 5 percent more money to spend than the previous year," Moreland said. "Insurance companies get a 15- to 25-percent increase, and they get money every time a new person shows up. I get a 5-percent increase and no new money when a new person shows up. It's a challenge."

The essential problem with the CARES approach is that it appears to be looking only one direction to solve the problems of underfunded, understaffed facilities: downsize. And while that approach may have worked for some managed-care organizations in the private sector, it doesn't necessarily fall into registration with the unique health-care needs of veterans.

That uniqueness – and the government's acknowledgement that veterans who served our nation deserve a separate health-care system that can meet their distinct needs – is what created the VA system in the first place. Those intentions cannot be forgotten by those who will decide between fixing the problem or squeezing it to death. And for veterans like Sylvester Johnson, for whom the system was built, the future of VA health care contains only that one certainty: it will continue to change. □

*Steve Brooks is editor of The American Legion Dispatch.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*



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# Call It a Start

*'We Were Soldiers' helps undo Hollywood's damaging depiction of American soldiers in Vietnam.*

**BY SUSAN KATZ KEATING**

In 1970, my father and some of his Army veteran buddies went to see the newly released and hugely successful movie "M\*A\*S\*H," about an Army mobile surgical unit in Korea. They walked out, outraged at the film's mean-spiritedness and ugly depic-

tion of the men they had served alongside in the "forgotten war."

A year later, my father was dead, and my mother and I moved to live with her family in Ireland. There, my Dublin schoolmates offered to introduce me to an American GI, then laughingly presented me with a tub of raw hamburger. For the first and only

time in my life, I slugged another human being.

I mention these incidents to illustrate a point. I grew up in a household that revered soldiers at a time when popular culture both here and abroad used the disfavored Vietnam War as an excuse to make sport of American servicemen. And while cultural atti-





Mel Gibson, left, plays Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore, and Sam Elliott is Sgt. Maj. Basil Plumley, in Paramount Pictures' "We Were Soldiers." The film is based on Moore's book "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," an account of the 1965 battle of the Ia Drang in Vietnam. *Stephen Vaughan*

tudes have improved greatly toward American soldiers in general, they remain mired in old prejudices about U.S. servicemen in Vietnam. So it is that I, like my father before me, have returned home deeply offended many times by what I have witnessed onscreen about Vietnam.

*"We Were Soldiers" is a cracking good combat film, with sudden death, breathtaking heroism and romantic characters; basically, it's a World War II movie set in Vietnam.*

That was before I saw "We Were Soldiers," the new Randall Wallace film based on the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," by retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and former war correspondent Joe Galloway. The book and film recount the terrorizing 1965 battle of the Ia Drang, in which soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the 7th Cavalry fought America's first major ground engagement with the North Vietnamese military.

"We Were Soldiers" is a cracking good combat film, with sudden death, breathtaking heroism and romantic characters; basically, it's a World War II movie set in Vietnam. It is sickeningly violent. The storyline is heartbreaking. But in addition to being an absorbing movie, "We Were Soldiers" is a socially valuable work of art. It represents a significant turning point in American culture. Here's why.

The mistreatment of the Vietnam serviceman is an oft-told story. First, the soldiers were dispatched in all their patriotic innocence to fight a war so grossly mismanaged it's a wonder all of them didn't wind up with their names etched alongside the 58,000 already on the Wall.

Second, the men returned home to an ungrateful nation. Civilians openly jeered at soldiers. The intelligentsia mocked them for not being smart enough to evade the draft. Members of the so-called "peace" movement physically assaulted them.

Most appalling, though, is the rarely recognized fact that for the past 30-plus years, Vietnam vet-

erans have endured the outrage of being miscast as society's damaged goods. Despite the fact that Vietnam veterans are fully integrated, high-functioning members of modern society, they are the subject of countless urban myths depicting them as mentally or emotionally disabled, or even as walking time bombs waiting to unleash their pent-up sickness on America.

The myths have been perpetuated by Hollywood.

"Apocalypse Now," while artistically entertaining, depicts two versions of American soldiers in Vietnam: crazed violence junkies and psychologically malformed creatures of darkness. So, too, does the similarly artsy "The Deer Hunter."

In "First Blood," Sylvester Stallone portrays John Rambo, a veteran who becomes almost comically violent while acting out his demons from Vietnam. In the cult classic "Billy Jack," the explosive-tempered title character is a disillusioned former Green Beret who served in Vietnam. In "Taxi Driver," the murderous Travis Bickle is ... guess who? A Vietnam veteran.

In "Coming Home," Jane Fonda – who in real life betrayed her country by taking up with the enemy in North Vietnam – finds sexual and emotional fulfillment onscreen in an adulterous relationship with a severely disabled Vietnam veteran. Her discarded soldier husband eventually does the decent thing and drowns himself.

The themes are inescapable, with Miltonian allegories of hell, redemption and resurrection. In these films, the soldier is a base sinner who finds salvation only at great personal cost, such as the use of his legs. Always, the soldier must renounce allegiance to the gods of war.

Admittedly, filmmakers wanting to depict Vietnam in a straightforward light have had a tough sell.

In 1987, producer Michael Levy made "Gardens of Stone," a feature film about the Army's Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. "Until then, no one had



Combat veteran Sgt. Clell Hazard, played by James Caan, prepares to bury another young soldier in Michael Levy's "Gardens of Stone." Though the Army praised its patriotism, the film was not a box-office success. *Tri-Star Pictures*

done a homefront movie about the men who take care of the dead from Vietnam," Levy said. At the time, more than a decade after the last refugee was plucked from the roof of the American embassy in Saigon, the movie stirred controversy. Washington was divided during the on-location filmmaking.

When the movie was released, the press and public reacted with callous disrespect for the fallen soldiers. "Some people felt that the movie took advantage of the sympathy for the men who died," Levy said.

The Army gave Levy an award for patriotism for "Gardens of Stone." But in that instance, the Army was an audience of one, alone in its appreciation. Ultimately, the movie flopped at the box office.

About the same time, another Vietnam-themed movie was a smash success: Oliver Stone's "Platoon," allegedly based on Stone's own war experience. It is perhaps the single most socially damaging film about Vietnam.

The opening scenes of "Platoon" have been termed by veterans as being some of the most realistic on-screen depictions of life in the jungle. In the first few frames, American soldiers fight mosquitoes, fatigue and harsh conditions in addition to the unseen enemy. The soldiers engage in a violent firefight. They

return to camp, where they break out the marijuana. From there the depiction creeps steadily downward, with the men getting high, committing atrocities and trying to kill one another. In the end, the company commander calls in an air strike on his own position.

Critics hailed "Platoon" for its stunning realism and high artistic merit. Real soldiers, though, had a far different reaction.

"When I came out of that movie, I was so mad, I didn't know what to do," says retired Brig. Gen. Mike Lynch, who commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division during the 1968 Tet offensive. "Anyone watching that movie would think we were all a bunch of animals."

"We were nothing like that," combat veteran Robert Hemphill says. "Our men were nothing like that, and those things did not happen the way Stone says they did."

Hemphill is in a unique position to comment on "Platoon." He was Oliver Stone's company commander in Vietnam. He was particularly outraged to see that Stone identified their old Bravo Company, a unit from the 25th Infantry Division, as the platoon in the movie. The film's commander who called in an airstrike on his own men, then, would have been Hemphill, who says he did no such thing. He was appalled.

"The first thing I did was call Stone," Hemphill says. "I asked, 'Where the hell did you get that stuff you put in the movie?' I told him, 'It's not fair to our guys to misrepresent them in this way.'"

Hemphill says Stone pleaded dramatic license. The filmmaker went on to make two other Vietnam-themed movies, the relatively unknown "Heaven and Earth" and the hit "Born on the Fourth of July." Again, the main character in the

*Vietnam veterans ... have been the subject of countless urban myths depicting them as mentally or emotionally disabled, or even as walking time bombs waiting to unleash their pent-up sickness on America.*

latter film gains redemption only by renouncing his part in the Vietnam War.

Veterans have been deeply hurt by the one-sided presentation.

So it was that when I received an invitation to attend the Washington screening of "We Were Soldiers," I accepted eagerly but with a measure of apprehension. Would the excellent story be mauled, I wondered, by Hollywood? And how would the audience – largely Vietnam veterans and their families – react?

My first question, thankfully, was answered in the negative.

My second query was resolved the minute the movie ended. Normally, an audience starts to filter out when the story portion concludes. Here, though, the entire company-sized audience remained frozen in their seats in attentive silence until the last

















Oliver Stone's company commander in Vietnam, Capt. Robert Hemphill, was outraged at the depiction of his unit in Stone's film "Platoon." *Courtesy Robert Hemphill*





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closing credit vanished from the screen. Then the group rose in unison for an emotional ovation. Many were visibly shaken. Some were in tears. Afterwards, they fell into a receiving line to meet author Galloway and thank him, repeatedly, for helping create this treasure of a film.

What, then, is so curative about “We Were Soldiers”?

First, its realism. The film examines genuine issues that caused problems for the troops both during and after their time in Vietnam.

In “We Were Soldiers,” Commander Moore – as portrayed by Mel Gibson – works mightily to prepare his men for their upcoming rendezvous with combat. Yet when it comes time to go to war, Moore loses more than a third of his highly trained men because their term of service has expired. The enemy, by contrast, consists of seasoned troops fighting on home turf. A high-school football coach would not make such an elemental mistake with his game roster; however, it happened with American soldiers in Vietnam.

The film also underscores a refrain long repeated by American

military leaders: when you go to war, you must commit to win. To do less is a grave sin, against both the nation and our soldiers.

Additionally, the movie presents Moore’s gut-wrenching guilt at surviving the battle while others died. This issue resonates for many veterans – not just those from Vietnam, but from other wars as well. My own father, a combat-hardened master sergeant at age 19, spent many long hours staring into the woods behind our house, wondering why he was able to walk off the battlefield in Korea when others did not.

Even the movie’s asides resonate authenticity. Former CBS war correspondent Jed Duvall recalls episodes like those in the film, when a gaggle of squeaky-clean, well-fed journalists descends on the still-smoking battleground, swarming the shell-shocked troops.

The most important aspect of “We Were Soldiers,” though, is its presentation of the American GI.

In real life, Lynch says, the most remarkable thing about American troops in Vietnam is that most were not professional warriors. “These were the kids next door forced to

*The film also underscores a refrain long repeated by American military leaders: when you go to war, you must commit to win.*

play war, and they did it,” he says. “They did it magnificently.”

Wallace makes this clear. In his hands, the soldiers are neither dope-taking goof-offs nor crazed killers nor irreparably damaged psycho-victims. Rather, they are brave, loyal, honest and patriotic American men. They are heroes, every one.

Former Navy pilot Everett Alvarez, who spent nearly nine years as an unwilling “guest” at the infamous Hoa Lo “Hanoi Hilton” prison in North Vietnam, said, “These were the men I knew.”

These are the men our country needs to know. “We Were Soldiers” introduces them.

I wish my father could have joined me at the screening of “We Were Soldiers.” He wouldn’t have walked out. He would have stayed through to the end and shaken Joe Galloway’s hand. And I bet he would have agreed with Alvarez, who told me, “This is the first Vietnam war movie I have seen without the Hollywood political baggage, and without the myth of what a soldier fighting in Vietnam was.”

In 1989, film critic Roger Ebert wrote of the anti-war “Born on the Fourth of July,” “They could simply hold a screening of this movie on Capitol Hill and call it a day.”

I have a better idea. Let’s gather the motion-picture industry for a showing of “We Were Soldiers” and call it a start. □

*Susan Katz Keating is author of the book “Prisoners of Hope: Exploiting the POW/MIA Myth in America.” She also is director of special programs for the Freedom Museum in Manassas, Va.*

*Article design: King Doxsee*



Director, writer and producer Randall Wallace, left, discusses a scene with actor Mel Gibson during the filming of “We Were Soldiers.” *Stephen Vaughan/Paramount Pictures*



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# Chronic pain

*Certain types persist years after original cause is resolved.*

BY DR. JOHN R. FEUSSNER

"It's like knives going through my eyes. It makes you want to pull every hair out of your head," a woman suffering chronic pain told a *New York Times* reporter.

It's difficult for many of us to imagine what it must be like to live with this kind of pain day after day, year after year. Yet for as many as one in five Americans, chronic pain is a harsh reality.

Chronic pain can sometimes stem from a disease, such as cancer or arthritis. It also may result from an infection or serious injury. In some cases, once the illness is effectively treated, or the infection or injury heals, the pain goes away.

In other cases, however, chronic pain persists long after the original cause is resolved. And in many patients, no underlying reason, such as a disease or past injury, can be identified. Chronic pain

*VA recognizes pain as the "fifth vital sign," along with pulse, temperature, respiration and blood pressure.*

of this type – the hardest to treat and most difficult for patients – is itself a disorder of the nervous system. Often referred to as neuropathic pain, it produces abnormal changes in the brain and spinal cord. Over time, it rewires the nervous system to

become hypersensitive to the point where even mild pressure can cause pain.

Unlike acute pain, which warns of a problem in the body, this type of chronic pain serves no useful purpose – only agony.

**Fifth Vital Sign.** In 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system took aggressive steps to help sufferers of chronic pain. VA recognizes pain as the "fifth vital sign," along with pulse, temperature, respiration and blood pressure – and nurses receive special training in pain assessment.

VA also increased its efforts to treat chronic pain through programs such as the Chronic Pain Rehabili-



Corbis Stock Market

tation Program at Tampa VA Medical Center and the Chronic Pain Management Program in Long Beach, Calif. At these and other clinics throughout the VA system, specialists in chronic pain use a multidisciplinary approach. Treatments may include individualized combinations of exercise, relaxation techniques, psychotherapy, electrical stimulation, and medications such as aspirin, antidepressants – which also help pain – and other analgesics. Narcotics are generally avoided because of their undesirable side effects. Surgery is a last resort, but in some cases it may be recommended.

Pain-clinic teams also address issues such as depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, sexual disorders and disability. For people with chronic pain, few areas of life are unaffected.

The key to improvement is a comprehensive treatment program. Drugs alone are seldom the answer. In fact, some VA research suggests – contrary to traditional medical wisdom – that opiates such as codeine or morphine do not help patients function better. Nor do these drugs reduce how much pain patients experience. Dr. Ronald Gironda, a rehabilitation investigator with the Tampa pain program, ➡see **pain**, page 50



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## Researchers develop smallpox drug

In a multi-institutional study, VA researchers have discovered an oral drug that kills smallpox and other viruses. It could be the answer to saving thousands of lives after a bioterrorism attack or widespread epidemic.

Hexadecyloxypropyl-cidofovir (HDP-CDV) stops the smallpox virus from replicating and spreading. The drug has been tested in mice but is not yet available for human use. Researchers at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) are conducting further studies.

"This is a big step for VA and the country," VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi said. "The discovery combines VA's extensive national research program with VA's mission to respond to national emergencies, which was put to a dramatic test on Sept. 11."

A fear of bioterrorism soon followed the September attacks, and the highly contagious smallpox virus was a major concern. Additionally, the possibility exists that even people vaccinated before 1972 are no longer immune to the disease. USAMRIID researchers, headed by Dr. John Huggins, screened hundreds of existing drugs to combat smallpox at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta before identifying an existing compound called cidofovir.

"HDP-CDV is a potent derivative of cidofovir," said Dr. Karl Y. Hostetler, director of the Endocrine and Metabolism Clinic at VA San Diego Healthcare System, professor of medicine at the University of California at San Diego and developer of the new drug. "However, cidofovir must be administered intravenously, thus limiting its fast application in an emergency. If you've got thousands of people exposed to smallpox, oral treatment would be far more effective."

If continuing studies support HDP-CDV's effectiveness and safety, the drug could be given in pill or capsule form between five and 14 days for prevention or treatment of smallpox in people exposed to the disease, Hostetler said.

The VA and University of California work was done in collaboration with research groups headed by Huggins and Dr. Earl Kern of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The effort was initiated in 1999, when the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases asked VA and UCSD team to develop an oral version of cidofovir.

Hostetler's research was supported by grants from the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Eye Institute and the VA San Diego Healthcare System.

## VA care may extend to jailed vets

A bill sponsored by Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., would require VA to continue to treat veterans incarcerated in county or city jails located near VA hospitals.

VA reversed its long-standing policy of providing medical care to incarcerated veterans in October 1999. That decision has placed a financial burden on many local governments, Gordon said.

"Our military veterans served

their country and were promised medical care in exchange for a commitment to defend the United States and its interests. Denying them that care disturbs me," Gordon said.

Gordon's bill, H.R. 3772, applies only to eligible veterans who are prisoners in a county or city jail and who would be provided VA medical care or services if they were not incarcerated.

### FOR MORE INFO

Contact Rep. Gordon at  
(202) 225-4231  
[www.house.gov/gordon](http://www.house.gov/gordon)

**[pain]** is pursuing this research with support from VA and the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

**A Breakthrough Near?** Scientists are making great strides in understanding how pain signals travel through the body. Their advances may result in safe, effective treatments for chronic pain sufferers.

An exciting development in pain research has come from Dr. Patrick Mantyh of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Working with rats, his team has figured out a way to selectively kill nerve cells along the spinal cord that relay pain signals to the brain while leaving other nerve cells intact.

The researchers first isolate the messenger protein that binds with these nerve cells, enabling them to do their job. Then they attach a neurotoxin – a chemical that kills nerve cells – to the messenger. The pain-causing neurons "open the door" for the messenger protein but are then killed by the messenger's deadly companion. As a result, no pain signal is sent to the brain.

If this method proves suitable for people, it may provide a way to permanently stop chronic pain while preserving the body's normal pain response. Meanwhile, research will continue to seek new ways to help veterans and other Americans living with chronic pain.

*John R. Feussner, M.D., M.P.H., is chief research and development officer of the Veterans Health Administration.*

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# The rebound headache

*Pain relievers are often the cause rather than a cure.*

BY TARA PARKER-POPE

If you suffer from chronic headaches, the pills you're taking to relieve the pain may harm rather than help.

Doctors say millions of people suffering from headaches are the unwitting victims of analgesic rebound headache, an ailment caused by overuse of pain relievers. While prescription headache medicines can cause the problem, even simple over-the-counter pain relievers – including aspirin, ibuprofen and acetaminophen – can trigger headaches instead of curing them.

One problem is that many people don't pay attention to how many over-the-counter headache pills they take because the drugs are widely viewed as safe, even in high doses. Often, the drugs do a good job of relieving everyday headaches.

For rebound sufferers, however, the pain never completely goes away. Instead, they get caught up in a cycle of popping pain relievers, which in turn trigger another headache, which then prompts the sufferer to take more pain pills.

That's what happened to Richard Fassler, a 60-year-old economic development specialist in Honolulu who suffered from regular headaches for 30 years. He started taking an over-the-counter pill with added caffeine and quickly progressed to as many as eight a day, plowing through a jumbo economy-size bottle every few months. Despite all the pills, he rarely went more than a few hours without headache pain.

While visiting his eye doctor, a nurse suggested Fassler's regimen of daily pills might be the cause of his pain.

He decided to quit the pills cold turkey.



Corbis Stock Market

"It was difficult to get over this," he says. "But after a while the headaches started to go away. For the first time in 30 years I've had headache-free days."

Rebound from pain relievers only happens if the user has a headache in the first place. That's why people who take a daily aspirin to ward off heart attacks or who take pain medications for arthritis aren't affected.

It's not clear why rebound headaches occur. Doctors know that over-the-counter medications containing caffeine are often to blame. Caffeine withdrawal is a common cause of headache, and rebound headaches also can be caused by daily doses of coffee or soft drinks.

Caffeine, when used properly, helps relieve headache pain by constricting blood vessels. The

problem begins when a person becomes dependent on caffeinated headache pills, triggering a cycle of short relief and then more pain.

Some doctors think rebound headaches are caused because overuse of medication prompts the brain to develop new pain receptors, creating additional capacity to feel pain when the medicine wears off.

How do you know if your headache is caused by rebound? It's best to consult your doctor about chronic headache pain. But if you use over-the-counter pain relievers more than one or two days a week to treat a headache, you may be suffering rebound.

Stopping the rebound cycle is simple but often unpleasant.

The patient is weaned off a drug over a matter of days or weeks, but he often suffers serious headaches during the period.

Patients can consult with their doctor for alternative medicines to help them cope with pain during withdrawal. Sometimes the pain is so serious doctors choose to hospitalize a patient while they are taken off the drug. Once off the drugs, however, the headaches often disappear completely.

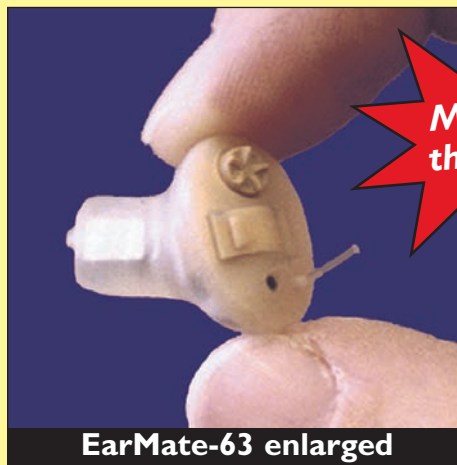
*Tara Parker-Pope is an author and health columnist for The Wall Street Journal.*

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## Disappearing tax dollars

Col. David Garrett, played by Louis Gossett Jr., runs a secret Pentagon psychic-warfare program in "Deceived," a new film from Cloud Ten Pictures. The movie, now in video stores, is fiction. But director Andre Van Heerden believes it's fact.

In "Deceived," Pentagon personnel use telekinesis, or the power to move things with the mind alone, to disable and even kill the enemy.

The most famous such government program, dubbed "Stargate," was partly run by the Defense Intelligence Agency and involved "remote viewing," or sensing things happening in distant places.

More than two decades ago, the CIA and the Department of Defense spent \$20 million researching the feasibility of implementing Stargate. The program involved using psychics for such operations as the attempt to locate Moammar Gadhafi so the Air Force could bomb him.

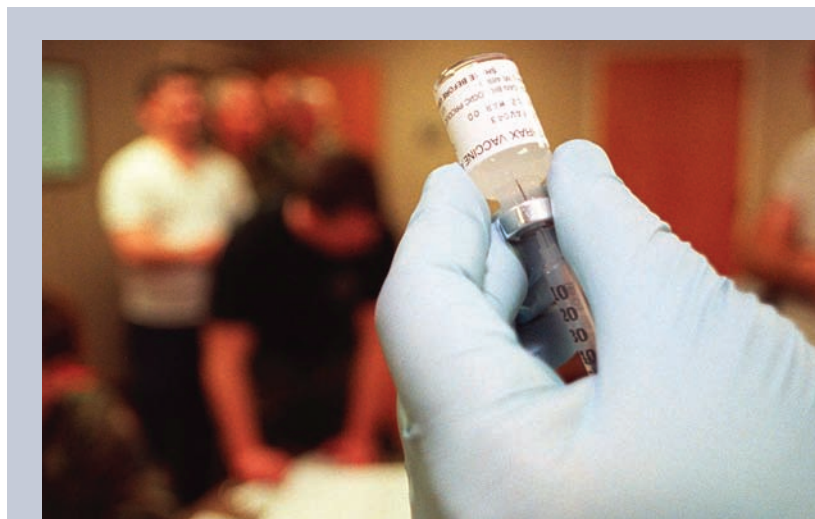
"The Amazing Randi," a professional magician, author and lecturer, says the idea is hokum. Calling it "witchcraft in Washington," he insists nothing will come from reports of U.S. intelligence agencies using psychics to predict terrorist attacks. Randi's foundation is offering \$1 million to anyone providing scientific evidence of paranormal powers.

A company called Transdimensional Systems claims it was approached by the FBI to predict acts of terrorism. The company dubs itself an expert in remote viewing and "consciousness mapping."

## Pro-Bono politics

Irish rock star Bono is having a major influence on U.S. foreign policy. He convinced Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to support writing off bad loans to bankrupt regimes, or Third World "debt relief." He also was in the audience when President Bush gave a major speech endorsing another \$10 billion in foreign aid.

"Bono, I appreciate your heart. And to you what an influence you've had, Dick Cheney walked in the Oval Office and said, 'Jesse Helms wants us to listen to Bono's



Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said he believes the Pentagon's anthrax vaccination program should be suspended until the vaccine is improved. AP

## Air Force officer fights anthrax vaccine

With the support of billionaire and former presidential candidate Ross Perot, retired Lt. Col. Thomas Heemstra has launched a campaign against the mandatory anthrax vaccine, contending it is "untested, unsafe, ineffective, unethical and illegal."

Two million doses of the vaccine have been given to more than 500,000 Americans in uniform.

After a National Press Club news conference in Washington, Heemstra – an F-16 fighter squadron commander – went on a national speaking tour to promote his book "Anthrax: A Deadly Shot in the Dark." In the forward, Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., calls Heemstra a true patriot who is right to challenge the program.

However, the Institute of Medicine has released a report stating that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective in protect-

ing against all forms of the deadly disease.

Heemstra claims that the Air Force punished him for testifying before Congress against the vaccine, and that he was grounded and forced into retirement. His concern, he said, was that the mandatory nature of the program would cause an exodus from the military.

So far, Heemstra said, almost 200 soldiers have been court-martialed for refusing the vaccine, and more than 500 have left rather than be inoculated. More than 250 are pilots, whose training costs \$6 million each. Heemstra calculates the loss to DoD and taxpayers at about \$1 billion.

The sole producer of the anthrax vaccine, Bioprotect of Lansing, Mich., is receiving tens of millions of dollars in federal subsidies.

– C.K.

ideas," said the president, whose remark was greeted with laughter and applause.

Terry Jeffrey, editor of *Human Events* newspaper, is not laughing or applauding. Calling for a "Bono tax" on foreign rock stars, he wants 100 percent of their income earned here to be confiscated by the IRS "to offset the cost of foreign aid."

"Here's how it would work: he

gets taxed. Americans get a tax cut," Jeffrey said. He called Bono, whose real name is Paul Hewson, a "filthy rich Marxist materialist" who belongs to a "pernicious class of millionaires."

"I'd bet Bono's mansion that after Bush's aid proposal runs its course, Bono will be back demanding more," he concluded.

– Cliff Kincaid





# Called to compassion



The Rev. Gerry Brown of Hemett, Calif., joins others in saluting as a firefighter's flag-draped body is carried from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York. *Courtesy Calvary Chapel Magazine*

## *Chaplains address needs of servicemembers, families*

BY DAVID A. PATTEN

Military chaplains played a key role in the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when civilian-assistance casualty teams faced the sad responsibility of breaking the news to families. As one chaplain said, tending to the families became not the highest priority, but the only priority.

Suddenly chaplains were in the news. When troops were deployed, chaplains reassured soldiers and families whose sense of homeland security had been tested.

"Now you wonder where the frontlines are," explained Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Colton, a chaplain at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. "The question today could be 'Where is the battlefield?' because the United States has been made a target."

Rear Adm. Barry C. Black, chief of naval chaplains, agreed. "When you deploy and are away from your family, there is always some anxiety. The terrorism probably added to that because there is an uncer-

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tainty now in the homeland. But it also gives you something to fight for, knowing that your loved ones can be placed in jeopardy. It makes the cause that takes you away from home much more significant."

On bases, chaplains have the duty of ministering to the families left behind.

"If people are concerned that their families are not being taken care of back home, you're going to have a problem after a while," he said. "Particularly because news travels fast, and the sailors now have e-mail. They can monitor how well the home front is being taken care of much better than they could even five or six years ago, so we have an infrastructure in place to support the families."

Chaplains work closely with the 262 family centers that the military maintains on bases nationwide. Meg Falk, director of the Of-

fice of Family Policy for the assistant secretary of defense, advises families in need of information to visit the Military Family Resource Center's Web site. The site's "Special Issues" section boasts a new "Enduring Freedom" page, with mobilization updates and links to many family resources.

Every branch of the service is stretched thin in the way of chaplains. For example, the number of Air Force chaplains has declined from 861 to 630 over the past 15 years.

Black reports that the Navy is 35 chaplains short of its authorized strength level.

The high-profile role of chaplains following Sept. 11, however, has had an unexpected effect: recruitment is up. That's good news, because chapel attendance has increased since the terrorist attacks, and servicemembers and their families are seeking more spiritual guidance than ever.

*David A. Patten is a freelance writer living in Dania Beach, Fla.*



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# VPCC focuses on health-care issues

*Veterans urged to contact members of Congress.*

Department of Veterans Affairs officials say that despite their proposed 2003 budget containing the “largest increases ever requested,” it doesn’t contain enough money to meet health-care demands. But members of The American Legion’s Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee (VPCC) don’t think veterans should have to cover for the VA’s budget shortcomings to receive medical benefits they earned through years of service.

VA officials told the committee an increase in care given to Priority Group 7 veterans – those veterans who do not have service-connected injuries or illnesses and earn more than the minimum allowed for indigent veterans – has resulted in a need to charge a \$1,500 deductible to those veterans.

Although the \$1,500 co-pay plan was shot down by Congress, National Commander Richard J. “Ric” Santos said it never should have been considered by VA. He also argued the VA’s inability to collect Medicare payments from eligible veterans unfairly handicaps the VA budget.

“I find it ludicrous that veterans, while on and off active duty, are forced to pay for Medicare and then are not allowed to use it to offset the cost of treatment for VA health care,” Santos said. “This forces veterans to seek health care at facilities other than VA, facilities that cannot treat veterans as effectively or as inexpensively as VA.”

Santos said Medicare subvention would do more than help VA’s budget woes.

“We have the means to fill empty wings at VA hospitals with Medicare payments,” he said. “If they don’t get filled, they will be lost.”

## Number of Priority Group 7 vets on the rise

The increase in enrolled Priority Group 7 veterans is due to several factors, including:

- The rising cost of pharmaceuticals and VA’s low \$7 co-pay for a 30-day supply of nonservice-connected medications.
- Failed private health maintenance organizations (HMOs), which have driven many veterans to enroll in VA.
- VA’s strong reputation for health-care excellence and patient safety.
- VA’s specialized services, which attract many veterans in need of complicated health-care services.

The VPCC unanimously decided to urge all veterans and their families to contact members of Congress concerning Medicare reimbursement. It also heard presentations regarding national cemeteries, VA’s claims process and the Veterans Board of Appeals. But a presentation by a senior official in VA’s Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan garnered the most interest.

A CARES official said the primary reason behind the plan is to realign VA facilities and make better use of space. A timetable for completion of the study was also presented, with Phases II and III to be completed in Octo-

ber and a final report approved by May 2003.

VPCC members expressed concern that CARES will simply find ways to close down facilities, rather than providing better care and funding. Past National Commander John Geiger and Ron Conley, the Department of Pennsylvania’s National Executive Committeeman, both said they are personally aware of cases when veterans were moved out of VA’s system because of budget constraints.

“It seems to us that the VA’s policy in actuality is this: when the VA can no longer do anything for you, we’re going to move you out of the system and shift the burden to the private sector,” Conley said. “Usually, this means that the patient is going to be moved to a commercial facility far from his or her home, and after a certain period of time, VA will no longer pay and will no longer be responsible.”

VPCC members compared CARES to the Base Realignment and Closure study that led to the dismantling of more than 100 military facilities, reducing by more than half the Department of Defense’s medical-treatment facilities.

After two days of intense discussions, Santos asked for recommendations for further study by the cognizant commissions and the National Executive Committee.

## Further study requested

After two days of discussion, National Commander Richard J. Santos asked for recommendations from the VPCC, which produced the following statements:

- The American Legion supports the effective and efficient use of VA facilities and budget but insists a prominent member of the Legion be appointed to the study group responsible for CARES.
- The American Legion reaffirms support of Medicare subvention to allow VA to become a Medicare provider, thereby allowing any eligible veteran to use Medicare at VA health-care facilities. Priority Group 7 veterans should have access to VA care.
- The American Legion reaffirms its opposition to veterans in Priority Group 7 having to pay a \$1,500 deductible for VA services.
- The American Legion strongly supports continuation of the medical-affiliation system with major colleges nationwide.
- The American Legion adamantly opposes the transfer of Veterans Employment and Training Service from the Department of Labor to VA.



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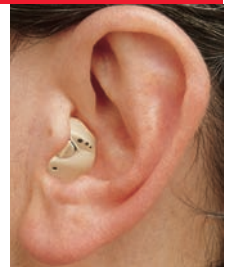


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I am 18 years old or older and voluntarily sign this waiver which indicates that I do not wish a medical evaluation or test before purchasing the Ampli-Ear 2002. I understand that The FDA has determined that my best interests would be served if I had a medical evaluation by a licensed physician who specializes in diseases of the ear, before purchasing the Ampli-Ear 2002 - or a test by a licensed hearing aid dispenser utilizing established procedures and instrumentation in the fitting of hearing instruments.

## DQ proceeds to benefit Children's Miracle Network

To show patriotism and gratitude for the nation's military and veterans, Dairy Queen's popular "Blizzard" treat is turning red, white and blue. From July 1 to 28, Blizzards featuring M&M candies in patriotic colors will be available at participating stores nationwide. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network, a non-profit partner of The American Legion. During Independence Day weekend, donations also will be made for every Blizzard sold, no matter the flavor. In addition, participating Dairy Queens will sell \$1 Miracle Flags to benefit Children's Miracle Network. Dairy Queen's donation coincides with the American Legion's annual fund-raising efforts.

Proclaiming July 6 "American Legion/Active Military Day," Dairy Queen will serve free sundaes to American Legion members and active-duty servicemembers carrying

membership cards or military identification.

"We wanted to create a special way to say thank you to those who have made and continue to make tremendous sacrifices for our country," said Chuck Mooty, president and CEO of International Dairy Queen Inc. "Our special Red, White and Blue

Blizzard is a fun way to show our pride and support our nation's military and veterans while contributing to such a worthwhile cause as Children's Miracle Network. We are happy to play a role in The American Legion's annual fund-raising program while offering a bit of familiar comfort to its members and those currently serving our country."

Children's Miracle Network is a nonprofit organization that raises funds and awareness for 170 children's hospitals throughout North America. Each year, affiliated hospitals treat 17 million children afflicted with diseases, injuries and birth defects. All money raised locally stays within the community.



**SOMETHING DIFFERENT**



**Children's Miracle Network**  
hospitals helping kids



## Virginia hosts Legion Baseball World Series

Members of The American Legion family have a unique opportunity this year to combine two important annual events – The American Legion National Convention and The American Legion Baseball World Series – into one fun-filled vacation. Due to the close proximity – a two-hour drive by

car – members are encouraged to leave home a few days early to attend both events.

The 76th Legion Baseball World Series in

### FOR MORE INFO

For information, tickets and accommodations:

**Call:** Ken Powell,  
(434) 792-1316

**Write:** 2002 American Legion World Series  
P.O. Box 325  
Danville, VA 24543

**Visit:** [www.alws2002.org/index.html](http://www.alws2002.org/index.html)

Danville, Va., will showcase eight regional championship teams that have advanced from approximately 5,000 teams nationwide. The series kicks off Aug. 21 – just two days before the National Convention commences in Charlotte, N.C. – with the Old-Timers Charity Baseball Game, which pits Major League Baseball alumni against American Legion All Stars alumni. The following evening, Legion family members are encouraged to attend The American Legion Banquet of Champions, honoring the teams. Series tournament games will be played Aug. 23 to 27 at American Legion Memorial Post 325 Field in Dan Daniel Park. Built in 1993, the ball park is the home of the Danville Braves, a minor-league affiliate of the Atlanta Braves. The park was named after former Rep. W.C. "Dan" Daniel, D-Va., who also served as American Legion national commander from 1956 to 1957.

This is Virginia's first time to host the Legion World Series.

## Magazine changes reunion policy

Listing a reunion in *The American Legion Magazine* is now easier than ever.

Starting this issue, reunions can be registered directly with *The American Legion Magazine*. That's right – no more third party.

The change follows other recent improvements to the magazine's reunion pages, include the numerical and alphabetical organization of listings.

When sending a reunion notice, be sure to include the branch of service and complete name of the group – no abbreviations – with your request. Listings also

should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

For instructions on submitting other notices, including "In Search Of," life memberships and "Comrades in Distress," see the instructions on page 64.

### LIST YOUR REUNION

**Write:** *The American Legion Magazine*  
Attn: Comrades Editor  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
**Fax:** (317) 630-1280  
**E-mail:** [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org)



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## Feel like you have brand new skin

You owe it to yourself to look good and feel great. The *SkinZinc* system will provide relief and begin to restore your skin to its healthy clear state immediately. The active ingredients in *SkinZinc* are FDA approved and have been used safely to treat skin disorders for many years. Currently there is no known cure for psoriasis or eczema and *SkinZinc* does not claim to cure any disease. Be sure to consult your physician if you have any questions.

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Say good-bye to that dry, red itchy skin and say good-bye to those messy, smelly ointments. *SkinZinc* goes on like water. Its easy application spray bottle makes treatment of your skin a snap. Stop suffering and call now for your risk-free trial **1-888-887-8281**, discount code **250**.

*SkinZinc* is guaranteed to work for you. So stop apologizing for the way you look and start feeling great, call now while supplies last, **1-888-887-8281**, be sure to mention discount code **250**.

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**Ask how to get a  
FREE supply with your order!**

**1-888-887-8281**, disc. code **250**

**"SkinZinc is the most effective product I've seen for the treatment of bothersome skin disorders such as psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis and dandruff."** ~S. Ravitz, M.D.

# Software organizes membership data

Keeping membership records current and handling correspondence requires dedication and hard work. A software program available to members of The American Legion family can help.

In 1998, the National Headquarters staff introduced Association Information Manager to its members. A membership-processing software

## FOR MORE INFO

Contact Larry Nun,  
IT Division

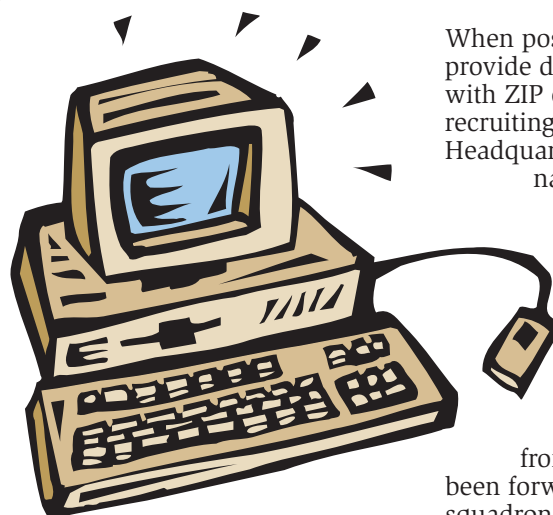
Call: (317) 860-3104

E-mail: [lnun@legion.org](mailto:lnun@legion.org)

ing software program developed by Diamond Data Systems Inc.,

AIM has two primary goals: help department, district, post, unit and squadron officers manage their membership data more efficiently; and help with member recruitment and retention.

AIM can be configured to work on the department or district level for any of the three American Legion family groups or tailored to the membership needs of individual posts, units or squadrons. Currently 50 Legion and Auxiliary departments use AIM, as well as



more than 400 Legion posts.

The software updates membership records, writes letters, addresses envelopes, generates mailing labels, renews members and tracks lists of officers, committees, subcommittees or team members on any level. The basic AIM program package costs about \$400, with separate charges for weekly or monthly membership updates.

Another benefit is in recruiting.

When posts, units and squadrons provide department headquarters with ZIP code listings for a desired recruiting area, National Headquarters sends – for a nominal fee – lists of people

whose memberships have expired since 1992. American Legion Information Technology specialist Larry Nun reports that since the program began, more than 200,000 names

from “expire lists” have been forwarded to posts, units and squadrons. Nun says many of those listed are hot prospects for recruitment.

A new generation of AIM is set for release. The new version has enhanced features that address specific needs of departments, posts or units and take advantage of newer operating systems, such as Windows ME, 2000 and XP. It also includes e-mail.

Support personnel are on call to assist with operator or program troubleshooting.

## Legionnaires can drive away with ‘Perfect’ deal

Members of The American Legion family can now save time and money on vehicle rentals from Budget.



## FOR MORE INFO

Enrollment in the Perfect Drive program is free. To enroll, use promotional code BCD# T756500 at one of the following:

Visit: [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)

Call: (800) 455-2848

the airport to a business meeting, members can take advantage of all the benefits Budget offers to enjoy stress-free travel.

Members receive discounted rental rates for leisure and business travel at participating Budget locations worldwide. In addition, members can take advantage of Perfect Drive, Budget’s premier award program for loyal customers, as well as Fastbreak, Budget’s hassle-free express-services program.

So whether travel plans involve meandering along scenic byways or driving from

## Join us!

The American Legion is an organization of veterans serving veterans, their families and communities. The Legion serves as the veteran’s voice in Washington, fighting for the benefits and rights of those who served our country in the armed forces.

Membership eligibility is based upon dates set forth by Congress. Eligibility dates are from 4/6/17 to 11/11/18; 12/7/41 to 12/31/46; 6/25/50 to 1/31/55; 2/28/61 to 5/7/75; 8/24/82 to 7/31/84; 12/20/89 to 1/31/90; and from 8/2/90 to present.

## For membership information:

The American Legion  
Attn: Membership Division  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Call toll-free: (800) 433-3318

E-mail: [ia@legion.org](mailto:ia@legion.org)

## Visit the Web site:

[www.legion.org/membership/membership.htm](http://www.legion.org/membership/membership.htm)

## For information about affiliate organizations:

### Sons of The American Legion

John Kerestan, (317) 630-1321

### The American Legion Auxiliary

Membership, (317) 955-3845



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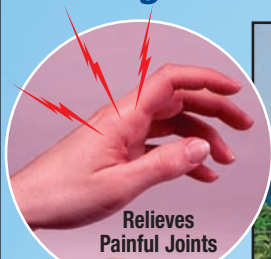
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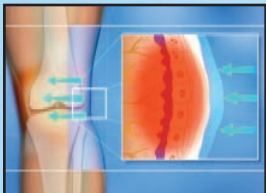
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**Eucalyptus Oil** Soothing and fragrant.

**Herbals** Used for centuries as restorative topical applications. Aloe Vera, Chamomile, Meadowsweet, Ginger Root, Coriander Oil

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Men and women report fast relief from pain and inflammation with improved mobility:

"Blue Relief is the best pain relief formula I've ever tried. In just 2 or 3 minutes my chronic wrist pain is gone, so I no longer have to take pills to work or to fall asleep."

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- Ankles



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- A \$60.00 value, and it's yours now for just \$19.99 plus s&h!

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## How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other Notices

"In Search Of" is primarily a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as

well as a contact name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org). The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE

**1st Airways and Air Comm Serv Sqdn (Mobile)/1st Mobile Comm Grp/1st Cbt Comm Sqdn**, Santa Fe, NM, 10/8-10, Don Devine, (352) 241-4965, [citrus3704@hotmail.com](mailto:citrus3704@hotmail.com); **2nd Army Repair Unit Floating**, Cincinnati, 10/2-5, Daniel Tiberie, (724) 239-5644, [dntjet@bentcom.net](mailto:dntjet@bentcom.net); **4th AAA SCARWAFs, England 1950-1953, RAF Stations Wyton, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Upper Heyford and Satellite Stations**, Branson, MO, 9/23-27, Bill Parkhurst, (918) 446-6400; **5th AF 5th Bomb Cmd**, St. Charles, MO, 9/11-15, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128

**5th AF 8th Ftr Grp 33rd/35th/36th/80th Sqdns**, Savannah, GA, 10/10-12, John Mark, (847) 678-5075, [onmarkp51@aol.com](mailto:onmarkp51@aol.com); **5th AF 314th Comp Wing**, St. Charles, MO, 9/11-15, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128; **7th Air Div SAC, 3910th Bomb Grp, England 1950-1953, RAF Stations Wyton, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Upper Heyford and Satellite Stations**, Branson, MO, 9/23-27, Bill Parkhurst, (918) 446-6400; **8th AF 359th Ftr Grp**, Louisville, KY, 8/22-25, Charles Staley, (608) 362-5513; **8th AF 390th Bomb Grp (H) Vets Assn WWII**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/24-29, Ken Rowland, (509) 467-2565, [rowlandr@mindspring.com](mailto:rowlandr@mindspring.com)

**8th AF 487th Bomb Grp H**, Omaha, NE, 8/5-13, Don Denbeck, (402) 366-3124; **9th AF 315th TCG**, San Diego, 9/18-22, Robert Cloer, (530) 674-3681, [rcloer@syix.com](mailto:rcloer@syix.com); **9th AF 402nd Ftr Sqdn**, Santa Barbara, CA, 9/25-28, Burton Lowe, (805) 481-0270, [lowe402@juno.com](mailto:lowe402@juno.com); **15th TCS**, Branson, MO, 9/30-10/3, Joe Yuhasz, (801) 566-5752, [ryuhasz45@aol.com](mailto:ryuhasz45@aol.com); **19th Bomb Grp**, Omaha, NE, 10/1-5, Jerry Michael, (317) 253-9265, [gmichael@indy.net](mailto:gmichael@indy.net); **25th Bomb Grp**, Norfolk, VA, 10/6-10, Keith Clinton, (616) 949-0245, [joker654@earthlink.net](mailto:joker654@earthlink.net)

**43rd Bomb Grp**, Las Vegas, 9/22-26, Roger Kettleson, (702) 363-2824, [rgask@juno.com](mailto:rgask@juno.com); **50th Ftr Bomb Wing/50th Tact Ftr Wing**, Bozeman, MT, 9/12-15, Jack Marshall, (406) 587-3280; **50th Ftr Grp 313th Ftr Sqdn**, Leesburg, FL, 10/25-27, George Conder, (775) 826-3127, [gccanc@aol.com](mailto:gccanc@aol.com); **52nd Armd Inf Bn**, Appleton, WI, 6/13-15, Lester Grover, (815) 495-9364; **64th TCG**, Sacramento, CA, October, Vern Montgomery, (317) 241-5264; **90th Strat Recon Wing**, Topeka, KS, 10/2-6, Chuck Hale, (785) 865-5794, [cnhale@earthlink.net](mailto:cnhale@earthlink.net)

**315th Bomb Wing (VH) Assn**, Indianapolis, 9/18-21, Beverly Green, (217) 893-3197; **342nd Air Serv Sqdn**, Pittsburgh, 9/19-21, Charles Brunhoezl, (570) 287-1608, [bruncharlie@aol.com](mailto:bruncharlie@aol.com); **526th Ftr Sqdn**, Minneapolis, 9/19-22, Wayne Rebeschke, (763) 682-2685, [wkreb@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wkreb@worldnet.att.net); **603rd AC&W Sqdn**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/17-21, Ken Knipper, (843) 236-3136, [m.knipper@worldnet.att.net](mailto:m.knipper@worldnet.att.net); **966th AEW&C Sqdn**, Orlando, FL, 10/18-20, James Skelton, (903) 723-5008, [trustme5@juno.com](mailto:trustme5@juno.com)

**3641st Flight Mtn Sqdn**, Oklahoma City, 9/6-8, Ray Schmuck, (218) 626-1185, [schmuckc@aol.com](mailto:schmuckc@aol.com); **7150th Supply Squad**, Wytheville, VA, 6/2-5, James Wassum, (276) 228-5340; **AFSPFF Westover AFB**, Branson, MO, 9/29-10/3, Jim Grimm, (352) 483-3772, [patjimgr@aol.com](mailto:patjimgr@aol.com); **Malden AB**, Malden, MA, 9/7-9, Robert Thust, (757) 851-2062, [rthust@juno.com](mailto:rthust@juno.com); **North Africa Div Air Trans Cmd**, Branson, MO, 9/22-25,

Carl Whipkey, (724) 235-9237, [carkey@youron.net](mailto:carkey@youron.net); **OCS Class 51A**, Cocoa Beach, FL, 9/25-28, William Rosser, (321) 242-2697

## ARMY

**1st Sig Co Society**, Branson, MO, 6/12-15, Jerry Nauss, (952) 884-5867, [jerynaus@juno.com](mailto:jerynaus@juno.com); **2nd Armd Div Assn**, Nashville, TN, 9/11-14, Lewis Bogart, (570) 546-9415, [info@2ndarmoredhellonwheels.com](mailto:info@2ndarmoredhellonwheels.com); **2nd Chem Mortar Bn**, New London, CT, 9/26-29, Col W. Thomas, (972) 387-1247; **2nd Inf Div 23rd Inf Rgt**, Green Bay, WI, 8/21-24, Jim Coulos, (630) 232-2042; **2nd Inf Div Indianhead**, Nashville, TN, 8/30-9/2, Tom Eastman, [kwva29d@tcmax.net](mailto:kwva29d@tcmax.net); **4th Inf Rgt RCT**, Williamsburg, VA, 8/16-18, Philip Logan, (703) 815-2029, [scouts87\\_90@hotmail.com](mailto:scouts87_90@hotmail.com)

**5th Armd Div Assn**, Wichita, KS, 9/25-29, Will Cook, (419) 628-4032, [wc5adwv2@wesnet.net](mailto:wc5adwv2@wesnet.net); **5th Eng WWII**, Robinsville, MS, 9/15-18, Marvin Moore, (662) 429-2596, [ajmijm@aol.com](mailto:ajmijm@aol.com); **6th Armd Div 9th Armd Inf Bn B Co**, Nashville, TN, 7/25-28, Robert Wheeler, (270) 237-4014; **6th Inf Div Natl**, Killeen, TX, 9/4-8, Russell McLogan, (517) 437-6959, [terruspress@dmci.net](mailto:terruspress@dmci.net); **7th Corp HQ**, Wichita, KS, 10/2-6, Lee Linder, (620) 497-6606, [kansas@socen.com](mailto:kansas@socen.com); **7th Inf Div 31st FA B Btry**, Keysville, VA, 11/9, Leroy Shook, (434) 736-9088

**11th Lib 3rd Inf 4th Bn A Co**, Tybee Island, GA, 6/27-30, Ronald Krul, (716) 695-7677, [ronaldkrul@aol.com](mailto:ronaldkrul@aol.com); **13th Abn Div Assn**, Peoria, IL, 9/11-15, John Scott, (913) 722-1143; **17th Air Cav 3rd Sqdn**, Washington, 8/30-9/2, John Dungan, (812) 597-0603, [blutigier@indy.net](mailto:blutigier@indy.net); **17th Arty Rgt**, Colorado Springs, CO, 7/31-8/5, Mike Burke, (949) 645-9284, [jonesnormr68@cs.com](mailto:jonesnormr68@cs.com); **20th Coast Arty HD**, Corydon, IN, 8/17-18, Cecil Fravel, (812) 738-2623; **25th Inf Div 8th FA Bn**, Branson, MO, 8/3-8, Allen Smith, (612) 529-4567

**25th Inf Div 35th Inf Rgt L Co**, Branson, MO, 8/27-9/1, R. Roper, (828) 692-2279; **25th Inf Div Assn**, Branson, MO, 9/4-8, Andy Ansell, (724) 423-7820, [ansellandy@aol.com](mailto:ansellandy@aol.com); **28th Gen Hosp**, Taos, NM, 10/10-13, Vernon Kerr, (505) 661-6123, [kerrisma@msn.com](mailto:kerrisma@msn.com); **30th FA Bn**, Austin, MN, 9/6-8, Harlan Buck, (507) 477-3566; **30th Inf Div Assn**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/16-20, Frank Towers, (352) 485-1173, [towersfw@aol.com](mailto:towersfw@aol.com); **31st Inf Div 20th Inf Rgt D Co**, Gatlinsburg, TN, 9/9-11, Gale Ruth, (419) 562-5387, [chughes@backroads.net](mailto:chughes@backroads.net)

**33rd Inf Div Assn**, Milwaukee, 9/12-14, Bill Endicott, (425) 741-3549, [billendicott@seanet.com](mailto:billendicott@seanet.com); **34th Eng Const Bn**, Washington, 7/25-28, John Ogilvie, (703) 780-6563, [jcoilvie@aol.com](mailto:jcoilvie@aol.com); **39th Cbt Eng WWII**, Bozeman, MT, 8/30-9/1, Stanley Gasawski, (618) 397-3925; **40th Inf Div 981st FA Bn Charlie Co**, Santa Maria, CA, 9/7, Ed Gutierrez, (805) 934-0399, [kathg194950@aol.com](mailto:kathg194950@aol.com); **45th Inf Div 2nd Co**, Wagoner, OK, 10/3-6, Thomas Ray, (580) 889-2927, [tray7@atoka.net](mailto:tray7@atoka.net); **47th Eng Bn**, Junction City, KS, 9/26-29, Lawrence Long, (785) 238-3513

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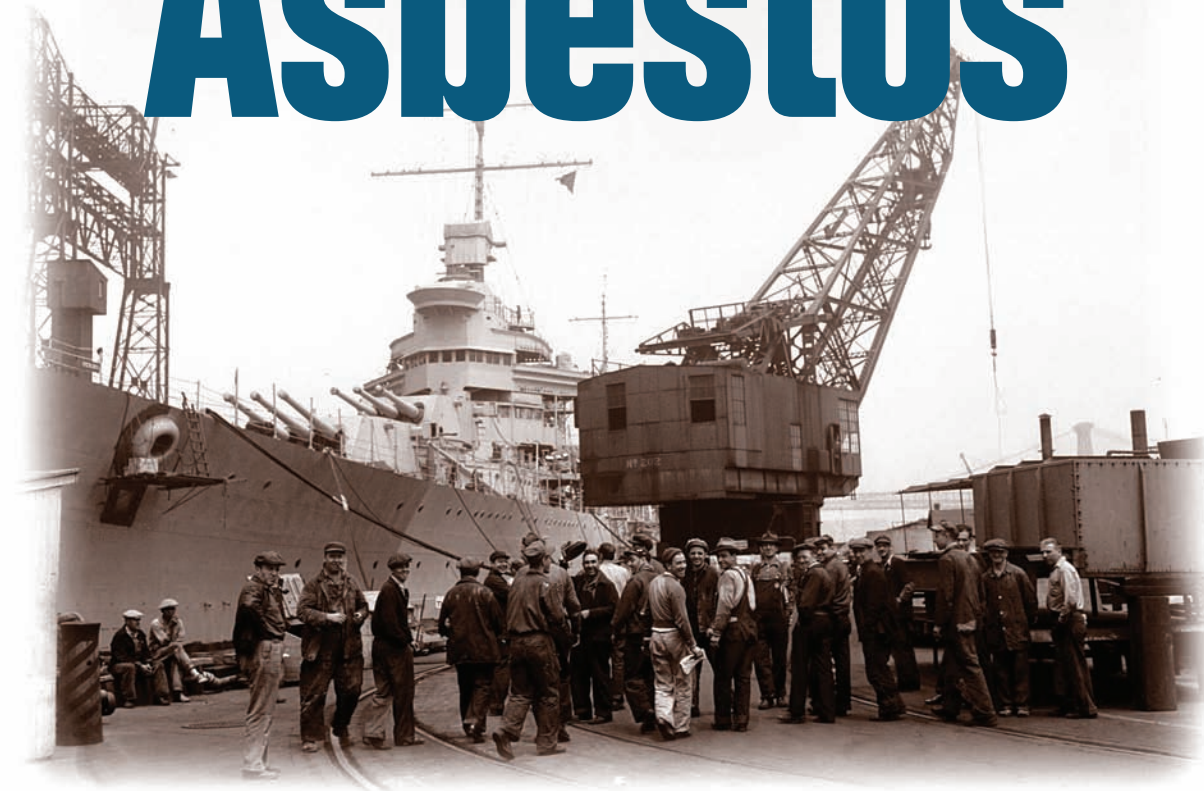
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**Scouting Sqdn WWII**, Corpus Christi, TX, 9/27-30, Alton Klinger, avspres2@juno.com; **SLCU 32**, Oklahoma City, 9/14-16, Howard Ritchie, (618) 442-5512, diel@otbnet.com; **USS Athena, AK 26/29**, Niagara Falls, NY, 10/2-6, Chris Walker, (912) 352-8702, clydemeyers@yahoo.com; **USS Aishain, AKA 55**, Kissimmee, FL, 11/7-10, Bill Rimby, (727) 347-4780, wrnvy@sprintmail.com; **USS Antigua, AF 17**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com; **USS Ariel, AF 22**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com

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**USS Benjamin Franklin, SSBN 640**, Groton, CT, 9/5-8, Lenny Exelby, (302) 456-9914, ssbn64blueyeo@aol.com; **USS Bennington, CV/CVA/CVS 20**, San Diego, 9/10-15, Robert Holmes, (661) 297-7059, mary0001@hotmail.msn.com; **USS Bosque, APA 135**, San Antonio, 9/20-23, Gerald Kelly, (412) 279-4836, gkelly8371@aol.com; **USS Boyle, DD 600**, Cruise, 10/3-6, Maurice Munsey, (602) 267-6718; **USS Braine, DD 630**, St. Louis, 9/29-10/2, Stanley Gold, (305) 271-7727, dd630@yahoo.com

**USS Calvert, APA32**, Ft. Mitchell, KY, 9/11-15, John Cole, (507) 789-6344; **USS Casablanca, CVE 55**, Houston, 9/25-29, Milton Rowe, (717) 761-8526; **USS Chivo, SS 341**, Charleston, SC, 10/10-13, George Lockwood, (941) 379-4470, glockwood2@comcast.net; **USS Clearwater, CS1 602**, Orange Beach, AL, 10/27-30, Marco Sampogna, (516) 228-1098; **USS Cleveland, CL 55**, Lafayette, LA, 10/1-5, Harold Lukovich, (337) 232-1781, acctjerry@yahoo.com; **USS Clinton, APA 144**, Baltimore, 9/30-10/3, John Palmer, (818) 244-6948, palmerjr@juno.com

**USS Columbia, CL 56**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/2-6, Bill Bohne, (610) 543-9073, usnc156@cs.com; **USS Core, CVE 13**, Davenport, IA, 8/27-29, John Morrissey, (641) 623-5160; **USS Corry, DD 817**, Roanoke, VA, 10/3-6, Wayne Owens, (540) 562-2713, wayneousnavy@aol.com; **USS Damon M. Cummings, DE 643**, Las Vegas, 9/27-30, Rollan Eberhard, (316) 799-2262; **USS Dashiell, DD 659**, Frankenmuth, MI, 6/9-12, Bob Buzzie, (734) 953-2696, buzzbomb@csspecialist.com; **USS Dehaven, DD 727/469**, San Antonio, 9/24-29, Dan Wisner, (208) 442-1433, dan@ussdehaven.org

**USS Dennis J. Buckley, DD/DDR 808**, Orange, TX, 10/24-27, Ron Clawson, (205) 668-0060, 2ronc2@ids.net; **USS Epping Forest, LSD 4/MCS 7**, Charleston, SC, 9/12-15, John Skarnulis, (203) 574-7881, jskarnulis@aol.com; **USS Francis Scott Key, SSBN 657**, Duluth, MN, 9/19-21, John Trubee, (585) 533-9341, jatrubee@aol.com; **USS Gen. A.E.**

**Anderson, AP/TAP 111**, St. Louis, 9/12-15, William Hamelman, (214) 726-9390, hamelman@swbell.net; **USS George Clymer, APA 27**, San Diego, 9/19-21, Fred Pellegrine, (734) 676-7671, drvino@provide.net; **USS Gustafson, DE 182**, Albany, NY, 9/19-22, Leo Baehler, (973) 543-7652; **USS Haddo, SS 255**, Buffalo, NY, 8/28-30, Joe Sergi, (508) 435-3623; **USS Hale, DD 642**, Savannah, GA, 9/15-18, Robert Reinhardt, (856) 456-5227, usshale@aol.com; **USS Hamul, AD 20/AK 30**, Pensacola, FL, 10/23-27, Ralph Kennedy, (301) 277-4069, grassokennedy@email.msn.com

**USS Henley, DD 762**, Plattsburgh, NY, 9/12-15, Brian Lenhart, (518) 368-5516, lenhartb@capital.net; **USS Hickox, DD 673**, San Antonio, 9/15-19, Jerry Cawley, (732) 283-0556; **USS Hillary P. Jones, DD 427**, Albany, NY, 10/14-17, Al Malcomson, (518) 449-2095; **USS Hollis, APD 86**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/1-4, Ray Stark, (252) 637-3698, rstark@coastalnet.com; **USS Honolulu, CL 48/SSN 718**, New Orleans, 9/5-8, Lou Nockold, (949) 644-6105, sailorlou@aol.com; **USS Houston, CA 30/CL 81**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/18-22, Kenneth Rogers, (717) 792-9113, donnakenr@cs.com

**USS Huse, DE 145**, Annapolis, MD, 10/23-27, David Perlestein, (561) 368-7167, dbp14@hotmail.com; **USS Indiana, BB 58**, Chicago, 9/19-23, Albert Vicarelli, (631) 734-5001, lonivcar@aol.com; **USS Ingersoll, DD 562/DD 990**, Laughlin, NV, 9/19-22, Thomas Dixon, (619) 424-5940; **USS J. Franklin Bell, APA 16**, Biloxi, MS, 11/6-9, Robert Tagatz, (815) 459-4997; **USS James Miller, DD 535**, Detroit, 9/27-10/2, Roy Klock, (610) 929-8343, jbgmnavy@daovesworld.net; **USS James O'Hara, APA 90**, Branson, MO, 10/15-17, Arthur Beasley, (804) 526-1203

**USS Kaskaskia, AO 27**, Memphis, TN, 11/11-15, Richard Hale, (901) 837-7115; **USS Kennebec, AO 36**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/10-12, Dick Hawkins, (763) 404-0966, dhawkins@ussskennebec.org; **USS Kleinsmith, APD 134**, Philadelphia, 9/26-29, W. Stege, (231) 723-9245; **USS Kretchner, DE/DER 329**, Peoria, IL, 9/19-22, Darrel Mammen, (217) 824-2053, darriel@ctitech.com; **USS Lansdale, DD 426**, Natick, MA, 9/12-15, Anne Allison, (781) 444-6789, jrandamallison@aol.com

**USS Laws, DD 558**, Kansas City, MO, 9/25-29, Ed Goeffert, (913) 299-9696, pgoeffert@aol.com; **USS Libra, AKA 12**, Hershey, PA, 9/23-25, Robert Platz, (845) 469-4980, rirplatz@frontiernet.net; **USS Lofberg, DD 759**, Charleston, SC, 9/27-29, John Loeb, (573) 473-8100, all@fionet.com; **USS Lowndes, APA 154**, Indianapolis, 10/17-19, William Kautz, (815) 344-6326, redlabelbuddha@aol.com; **USS LSM 132**, St. Paul, MN, 9/11-14, Gerry Danmeier, (239) 368-3569, danmeier1212@aol.com

**USS LST 41**, Muskegon, MI, 9/26-28, Gerry Danmeier, (239) 368-3569, danmeier1212@aol.com; **USS LST 372**, Indianapolis, 9/14-16, Wayne Foran, (217) 678-8145; **USS LST 1126**, Las Vegas, 8/18-21, Joseph Miller, (818) 340-0463, rettdpr@pacbell.net; **USS Mansfield, DD 728**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/16-21, Jim Tabor, (909) 780-5194, kman@meganet.net; **USS McCoy Reynolds, DE 440**, Portland, OR, 10/2-6, Ray Heller, (262) 886-9381, corpcorn@hotmail.com; **USS Melville, AD 2**, Nashville, TN, 9/20-24, Frederick O'Hare, (518) 747-3970, dehare@webtv.net

**USS Menard, APA 201**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/30-10/7, Jim Dubose, (970) 223-2373, jim-dubose@msn.com; **USS Menitee, APA 202**, Biloxi, MS, 10/12-15, Bill Millican, (661) 723-7753; **USS Merak, AF 21**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com; **USS Miami, CL 89**, Beach Lake, PA, 9/15-22, Jim Duff, (410) 641-8010, ejduff@aol.com; **USS Milwaukee, AOR 2**, Cleveland, 7/5-6, Ed Rothacker, (614) 876-9606, edrothacker@columbus.rr.com; **USS Mississippi, BB 41/EAG 128**, Gonzales, LA, 6/10-16, Mike Hulen, (870) 485-2362

**USS Mizar, AF 12**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com; **USS Murray, DD/DDE 576**, San Diego, 10/3-6, Shel Derlighter, (805) 985-8122, cshel9@juno.com; **USS Nautilus, SSN 571/SS 178**, New London, CT, 10/3-6, Walt Lincoln, (860) 355-1822, cilincoln@snet.net; **USS Nehenta Bay Air Crews, CV 174**, Minneapolis, 10/3-5, Stewart Wasoba, (727) 397-4871; **USS Oak Hill, LSD 7**, Charleston, SC, 10/24-27, Floyd Oney, (512) 446-2683; **USS Okanogan, APA 220**, San Diego, 8/8-11, Ed Collins, (773) 631-5568,

edtopcop1@aol.com; **USS Oklahoma City, CL 91/CLG 5/CG 5**, Scottsdale, AZ, 9/24-28, Frank Zaccaro, (727) 372-9692, faz1005@aol.com; **USS Otus, AS/ARG 20**, Minneapolis, 9/5-8, Harry Halvorsen, (715) 235-4711, heh@discover-net.net; **USS Picuda, SS 382**, Vallejo, CA, 10/16-20, Thurston Hahn Jr., (504) 469-0463, subhuey@aol.com; **USS Pocumoke, AV 9**, Huntington, VA, 9/30-10/2, C. Blair, (814) 643-0472, usspocumokeav9@aol.com; **USS Prairie, AD 15**, Laughlin, NV, 10/6-9, Joseph Brady, (215) 673-5195, stars@earthlink.net

**USS Pursuit, AM 108/AGS 17**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/26-28, Arlie Wooters, (302) 875-0136, arlie@bwave.com; **USS Quillback, SS 424**, Vallejo, CA, 10/16-20, Thurston Hahn Jr., (504) 469-0463, subhuey@aol.com; **USS Ralph Talbot, DD 390/DESRON 4**, Daytona Beach, FL, 8/21-25, William Aupperlee, (818) 762-5165; **USS Reynolds, DE 42**, New Orleans, 9/8-12, Louis Nolan, (216) 531-5381, wmjhock@intouchmi.com; **USS Renshaw, DD/DDE 499**, St. Louis, 10/3-6, Ray Smith, (301) 474-6127, rsrenshaw@aol.com

**USS Robert E. Peary, DE 132**, New Prague, MN, 9/20-22, Leon Snyder, (952) 758-4622; **USS Rocky Mount, AGC 3**, San Diego, 10/16-21, John Vreeland, (858) 277-0689; **USS Rowan, DD 405/DD 782**, Norfolk, VA, 10/16-20, Leo Moore, (973) 875-4582, ljmd782@warwick.net; **USS Salamaua, CVE 96**, Kansas City, KS, 10/10-12, John Smith, (515) 289-1467, jwspauli@aol.com; **USS Salem, CA 139**, Branson, MO, 10/17-20, Bob Daniels, (352) 315-1397; **USS San Saba, APA 232**, San Diego, 10/2-6, Harold Welles, (937) 435-5214, harpat5515@aol.com

**USS Severn, AO 61**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/4-5, David Barber, (614) 837-1268, barberdn@aol.com; **USS Sevier, APA 233**, Gretna, LA, 9/26-29, Leonard Schexnayder, (540) 366-9575, bufordeaux@cs.com; **USS Shenandoah, AD 26**, Lancaster, PA, 10/3-7, E. Zapf, davorlresarch@nmla.com; **USS Shrike, MSC 201**, Ingleside, TX, 10/3-6, Gene Perry, (864) 839-6162, navret@chcrco.net; **USS Smith, DD 378**, Midland, TX, 10/7-10, E. Buie, (915) 699-7017; **USS Somers, DD 381**, Orlando, FL, 9/18-22, Mary Patterson, (954) 527-1255

**USS Steamer Bay, CVE 87**, Salt Lake City, 9/12-16, Wendell Birch, (801) 277-9523; **USS Sunfish, SSN 649**, Jacksonville, FL, 6/18-25, Joe Martin, (823) 682-3103, jsmartin@ioa.com; **USS Swearer, DE 186**, Albany, NY, 8/13-17, Walter Roberge Jr., (863) 956-4112; **USS Talamanca, AF 15**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com; **USS Tarazed, AF 13**, Orlando, FL, 10/10-13, Harvey Rathel, (352) 245-3179, ssreunion02@aol.com; **USS Trutta, SS 421**, Vallejo, CA, 10/16-20, Thurston Hahn Jr., (504) 469-0463, subhuey@aol.com

**USS Tutuila, ARG 4**, Bay City, MI, 9/12-14, Ted Schneider, (504) 348-2046; **USS Twining, DD 540**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/30-11/3, Bruno Campagnari, (716) 372-1780, brunocampagnari@yahoo.com; **USS Virgo, AKA 20/AE 30**, Catskill, NY, 9/18-22, Bob Labbe, (978) 256-9633; **USS Wake Island, CVE 65**, Branson, MO, 9/12-14, Ronald Paul, (253) 759-9833; **USS Warhawk, AP 168**, Williamsburg, VA, 11/9-11, Robert Sonderman, (847) 674-0034, sdance75@aol.com; **USS Washtenaw County, LST 1166**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 8/14-17, Jay Brown, (570) 922-5410, lst1166reunion@yahoo.com

**USS West Virginia, BB 48**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/16-20, Joseph Variat, (231) 584-2280, margot@avci.net; **USS Wilkes-Barre, CL 103**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/27-30, Paul Rogan, (570) 443-8052, jprogan@intergrafx.net; **USS Wiseman, DE 667**, Traverse City, MI, 9/29-10/2, Thomas St. Denis, xchangemgr@aol.com; **VA-56**, Thomas St. Denis, Bob Redding, (425) 259-4570, bob19thhole@aol.com; **VC-94**, New Orleans, 9/1-5, Evelyn Sherman, (619) 435-1719, evelynsherman@aol.com; **VC/VAW-12**, Newport, RI, 9/19-22, Robert Marvin, (716) 434-1207, mar1207@adelphia.net

**VP-28/VP-HL-8**, Las Vegas, 10/15-17, Jim Miller, (816) 761-8724, patron28@aol.com; **VP-45 (VP-205)**, San Diego, 10/11-13, Charles Caldwell, (619) 445-5072, cbc@cts.com; **VP-933 NAS**, Willow Grove, PA, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/15-17, John Fronfield, (907) 351-5497; **VPB-26**, Branson, MO, 9/27-30, Robert Moreiko, (607) 723-9120; **WAVES Natl Convention**, Portland, OR, 8/26-9/1, (503) 644-2471, seagalfreddie@cs.com



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## IN SEARCH OF

- 1st Air Def Arty, 8th Bn, Charlie Btry (HAWK).** Anyone who served between September and December 1972, contact Vernon Cooper, 2808 Burning Tree Lane, Irving, TX 75062 or call (972) 594-5863.  
**3rd Bn, 8th Mar Rgt.** Anyone who served at Camp Geiger, N.C., between 1977 and 1978, contact Gary Lloyd, 379 Yorkshire Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.  
**5th AF, 324th Airdrome Sqdn.** Anyone who served in the South Pacific or Japan during WWII, contact W.P. Ketelsen, P.O. Box 1024, La Mesa, CA 91944.  
**7th Inf Div, 7th Sig.** Anyone who served with the Crypto and Message Center Group in Korea between May 1951 and March 1952, contact James E. Jean, 123 Hendersonville, NC 28791, call (828) 692-9148 or e-mail jeijr@juno.com.  
**8th Comm Bn.** Anyone who served at Camp Geiger in Jacksonville, N.C., between 1954 and 1955, contact Billy Smith, 2924 County Road 129, Wedowee, AL 36278 or e-mail bds@acsisp.com.  
**18th Eng Const Co or 8292nd Eng Const Bn.** Anyone who was stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, at Schofield Barracks between September 1947 and May 1950 or worked at Enewetak on an atomic test between 1947 and 1948, contact Bob Paulovich, 2751 Yale Ave., Butte, MT 59701 or call (406) 782-4507.  
**26th Mar, Wpns Co, 5th Div.** Anyone who served between 1943 and 1945, contact Frank Gardner, P.O. Box 403, Granbury, TX 76048, call (817) 573-3696 or e-mail m.gardner@granbury.com.  
**62nd AAA Bn.** Anyone who served at Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, between January 1955 and September 1956, contact Dwain Soester, 244 Cedar, Chadron, NE 69337, call (308) 432-5683 or e-mail bill@bahrens.com.  
**136th Radio Sec Det, 11th Sec Section.** Anyone who served on Adak in the Aleutian Islands, contact Anthony Racitti, 4334 K St., Philadelphia, PA 19124.  
**358th Inf Rgt, 90th Inf Div.** Anyone who served during WWI, WWII or interim periods, contact Staff Sgt. Keith C. Ciancio, Box 339500 Mailstop 100, Ft. Lewis, WA 98433 or call (253) 967-5116.  
**581st ARC Wing (MATS) Reproduction Sqdn.** Anyone who served in 1952, contact J.N. Sayles, P.O. Box 2128, Lodi, CA 95241.  
**596th Motor Ambulance Co.** Anyone who served from Ft. Lewis, Wash., to Munich, Germany, between 1943 and 1946, contact Roger Botkin, 3125 Hammock Creek Court, Conyers, GA 30012 or call (770) 922-0357.  
**768th AC&W Sqdn.** Anyone who served at Moriarty AFS at Moriarty, N.M., between 1958 and 1959, contact Andrew A. Caramanica, 45 Goddard Road, Apt. 211, Brockton, MA 02301.  
**1262nd Eng Cbt Bn.** Anyone who served in France and Germany between 1945 and 1946, contact Edwin Jones at (318) 861-3268 or e-mail ejones1926@aol.com.  
**1304th Eng Const Bn, A Co.** Anyone who served on

- Ledo Road in Burma between 1944 and 1946, contact Louis Dezzo, 864 Paterson Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607 or call (201) 845-7707.  
**1383rd EPD Co.** Anyone who served between 1944 and 1946, contact Jim Anderson, 215 9th Ave. S.E. #5, Aberdeen, SD 57401, call (605) 225-8934 or e-mail rolewitch@aol.com.  
**1551st AAFBU, SWPW, ATC, APO 709.** Anyone who served at Koli-Carney and Henderson Fields, Guadalcanal, between February 1944 and September 1945, contact Jack L. Cohen, 10 Robin Road, Fanwood, NJ 07023 or call (908) 889-1851.  
**Brooklyn Armed Guard Center.** Anyone who graduated from boot training in September 1942, contact J. Montesarchio, 800 Bronx River Road, Bronxville, NY 10708 or call (914) 776-6690.  
**Co 589, U.S. Naval Tng Station, Great Lakes, Ill.** Anyone who went through boot camp between March and May 1944, contact Clarence Miller, P.O. Box 544, Central Valley, NY 10917.  
**Colorado A&M.** Anyone who served with Class 26, Engineering and Operations, AAFTC in June 1943, contact Jack L. Cohen, 10 Robin Road, Fanwood, NJ 07023 or call (908) 889-1851.  
**Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.** Any Marines who served during 1975, contact Gary Lloyd, 379 Yorkshire Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.  
**H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar, 1st Mar Div.** Anyone who served during Operation Imperial Lake in Quang Nam, Vietnam, contact Gary Lloyd, 379 Yorkshire Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.  
**HQ & HQ 3rd Bn, 5th Inf Rgt, 8th Inf Div.** Anyone who served at Ft. Carlson, Colo., or Furth, Germany, Lee Barracks in Mainz-Gonsenheim, contact James E. Barbe, 1519 Greenville Road, Bristolville, OH 44402, call (330) 889-2117 or e-mail jimbo520@aol.com.  
**No. 32 Serv Flying Tng School RAF.** Anyone who served at RCAF Station, CFB 15 Wing Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan, Canada, after 1940, contact J. Noel at noel.jr@forces.ca.  
**Port Co 612, 489th Port Bn, A Co.** Anyone who served at Indiantown Gap, Pa., basic training, Milne Bay, New Guinea, or at Lingayen Gulf at Luzon, Philippines, between 1942 and 1946, contact Fred Fredericks, 1205 11th St., Belle Plaine, IA 52208 or call (319) 444-2448.  
**Serv H&S 1st Mar Div.** Anyone who served at Ascom City in Korea between January and March 1953 or at K-16 between April and December 1953, contact Phil Oakes at (206) 542-2652 or e-mail aoaks@uswest.net.  
**SLCU 40.** Anyone who served with Navy amphibious unit between 1944 and 1946, contact Huston Kymes, 2122 Airport Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913, call (501) 767-3997 or e-mail toby22hjk@earthlink.net.  
**Trp "K," Tng Rgt, CRTC.** Anyone who served at Ft. Riley, Kan., in October 1943, contact Fred Stueve, 4280 Salzer Road, Wamego, KS 66547, call (785) 456-7939 or e-mail k0tcs@kansas.net.  
**University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.** Any veterans who attended, contact Bill Jennewine, 614 Sandy Creek Drive, Brandon, FL 33511 or e-mail bgtd96@aol.com.  
**USCGC 83472.** Anyone who served in the South China Sea during 1945, contact Harry A. Smalling, 614 Passaic Ave., Clifton, NJ 07012 or e-mail grampstara@aol.com.  
**USCGC Bowstring, WPC 365.** Anyone who served between 1943 and 1945, contact Harry A.

- Smalling, 614 Passaic Ave., Clifton, NJ 07012 or e-mail grampstara@aol.com.  
**USS Bayonne, PF 21.** Anyone who served aboard ship, contact Gil Yoffredo, 100 Evergreen St., Bayonne, NJ 07002, call (201) 858-4979 or e-mail petermahalson@msn.com.  
**USS Belleau Wood, CVL 24.** Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact Joe Outlaw, 331 Lakemont Road, Newlondon, NC 28127 or call (336) 461-2188.  
**USS Leo, AKA 60.** Anyone who served aboard between 1952 and 1955, contact Ben B. Baca, 11105 Coconino Road S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123, call (505) 332-8936 or e-mail benito-1@juno.com.  
**USS Piper, SS 409.** Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1970, contact Jim Burke, 78 Eagle Drive, Whiting, NJ 08759 or e-mail jmother409@cs.com.  
**WWII New Orleans-class cruisers.** Anyone who served aboard the USS Astoria, USS Minneapolis, USS New Orleans, USS Quincy, USS San Francisco or USS Vincennes, contact Al Moore, 2701 Clark Towers #107, Las Vegas, NV 89102 or call (702) 220-7123.  
**YR-71.** Anyone who served in Vietnam between 1970 and 1971, contact Michael R. Cassese, 212 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473 or call (203) 234-8712 or (203) 605-3307.

## TAPS

- Maurice E. Druhl,** Dept. of Oregon. Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Advisory Board Memb. 1962-1963 and 1964-1965, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966 and 1967-1968, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1966-1968, 1970-1971, 1981-1982 and 1988-2002, Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Consultant 1968-1970, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Secretary 1971-1974, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Chmn. 1974-1987 and Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr. Rep. 1987-1988.  
**W.D. Harrell,** Dept. of Georgia. Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1955-1960, 1961-1962 and 1964-1965, Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1962, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1962-1963, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1989, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1964-1970, Nat'l Resolutions Subcmte. Memb. 1969-1972, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1970-1975, Nat'l Resolutions Subcmte. Vice Chmn. 1972-1989, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Chmn. 1975-1976, Nat'l Children & Youth Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1976-1978, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Director 1977-1989, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1978-1989, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Treasurer 1979-1989, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1985-1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Nat'l Coordination & Action Group Memb. 1987-1990, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1989-1995 and Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Memb. 1995-2002.  
**John J. Harris,** Dept. of New York. Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1969-1999, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1973-1978, 1979-1984 and 1988-1998, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1976-1990, Nat'l Sgt.-At-Arms 1978-1979, Dept. Cmdr. 1982-1983, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. 1983-1984, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. 1984-1985 and Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1984-1985.

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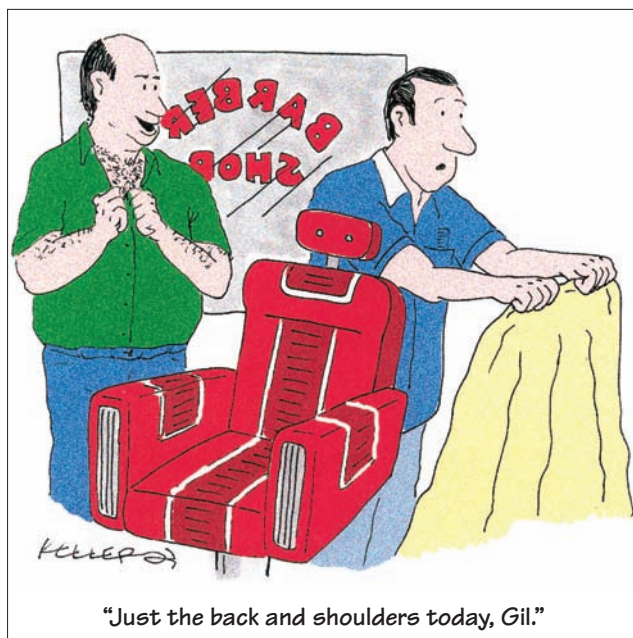
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Timmy is in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbor peers over the fence. Wondering what the youngster is doing, he politely asks, "What are you up to there, Tim?"

"My goldfish died," Timmy says tearfully, "and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" the neighbor asks, concerned.

"He's inside your cat," Timmy replies.

### Cast the First Stone

Diplomacy is saying "nice dog" until you find a rock to throw.

— Anonymous

### Payback Time

A young man comes home after being issued a driver's license. To celebrate, his entire family gets in the car for his inaugural drive. The father immediately heads for the back seat, directly behind the new driver.

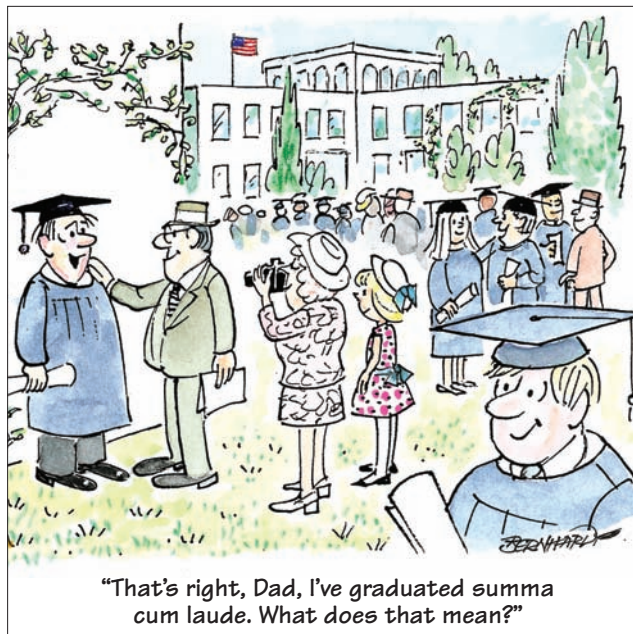
"I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front teaching me how to drive," the teen says.

"Nope," the father replies. "I'm gonna sit here and kick the back of your seat while you drive, just like you've been doing to me for 16 years."

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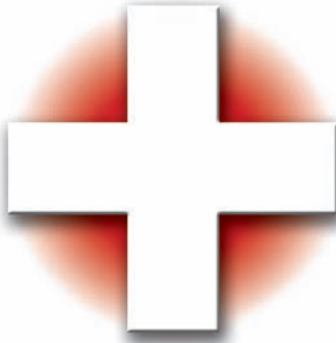
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